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EXTOLLING
INDIANA'S
COLORED
WOMEN'S
CLUBS

***Initiators of Socioeconomic Projects**

***Instilling Self-Reliance**

*** Imparting Ethnic Pride**

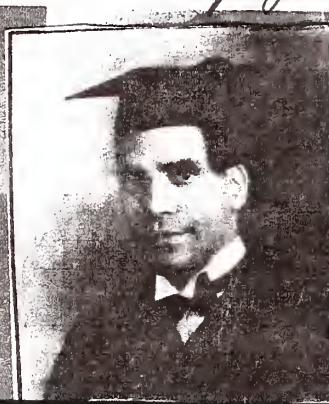
19th – 20th Centuries: A Legacy of Service & Philanthropy

by Marsha E. Smiley

Spirit Flight/W.S.

April 25, 2012

Dedicated to my grandparents and Dr. Helen Lee / Central



Kentucky State University

Scott Van Meter Mitchell
(1896-1971)

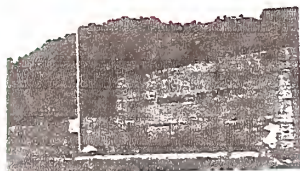
Alberta Marcella Fletcher Mitchell
(1898-1983)

Alberta & Scott Mitchell

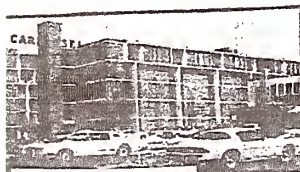
They met in Frankfort, Kentucky, at Kentucky State University, where they became college sweethearts. Both were natives of the state. Alberta Fletcher grew up in West Bend, Kentucky on a 500 acre farm owned by her maternal grandparents, George and America Cooper. Her parents, Alice and Charles Fletcher, after marrying, bought some farmland from her parents to live on and rear a family. Scott, a math genius, and his brother, Willow, were raised in Bourbon County, Ky.---thoroughbred horseracing & bluegrass country---by their mother, Josephine Mitchell, in the home of equalitarian Brooks Clay, a cousin of notable U. S. Congressman Henry Clay. According to Clay family folklore, Brooks and his brother, Brutus, are referred to as "the unconventional Clays" due to their divergent views from the family on the 'race' issue. They educated Scott and influenced his worldview. For his post graduate work, Scott attended Tuskegee University, where he studied under the renowned scientist, Dr. George Washington Carver.

Scott and Alberta married in West Bend on July 14, 1920. Alberta took on the task of running a household and later raising their family. In later years, she became a caterer, well-known for her culinary skills. Scott taught school; he eventually became, during the 'Great Depression', the principal of Oliver High School in Winchester, Kentucky. He also farmed and built the family's first home in West Bend. In the late 1930's, he switched career paths, choosing to become a general contractor---forming his own construction business. He moved his family, in 1940, to Richmond, Indiana, where he built homes for that area's black society. In 1951, he built a home in the country, on a 37 acre farm he bought just outside the city. He moved, in 1956, with Alberta to Fort Wayne where he built their retirement home. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1971. They are laid to rest in Allen County, Indiana.

Several of their children owned their own businesses. His two sons, Scott Jr. and Coffield, followed their father into the construction trades including brick masonry. They owned and operated their own construction companies---building homes, banks, schools, etc. in Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.



Holden, West Virginia



Columbus, Ohio



Family Reunion in Kentucky: Gladys Wilson, Janet Williams, Scott Mitchell Jr., Josephine O'Dell, Oliver C. Mitchell.



GOLDEN WEDDING — Mr. and Mrs. Scott Mitchell, Sr. 1415 Lillie St., have celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. The couple was married in West Bend, Ky., July 14, 1920. They are the parents of five children, Scott, Jr. Columbus, O.; Coffield, also Columbus; Mrs. John O'dell Mansfield, O.; Mrs. Donald (Gladys) Wilson, Fort Wayne, and Mrs. Beauford (Janet) Williams, Lansing Mich. There are thirty-four grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Mitchell is a retired principal and general contractor and his wife, the former Alberta Fletcher, is a retired caterer.

*Marsha E. Smiley
2012*



RECONSTRUCTION



Plessy v. Ferguson

Plessy v. Ferguson is one of the most notorious court cases that the Supreme Court has released. The event that underlined the case goes as follows: Homer Plessy, born a railroad cart that ran from New Orleans to Chicago. While this would be to take in our modern world of knowledge in those days, segregation and racial discrimination were big topics and still are, but not as heated. To continue the story, Plessy, boarded one of the "first class" colored cart. In which there segregated for whites and then colored people. He wanted to sit in the colored cart, to be allowed, the Louisiana law and was punished for it. He took the case to against the state of Louisiana and argued that under the 13th and 14th amendments that he was protected by them from racial discrimination and to be treated as an equal individual. However, the judge John Howard Ferguson stated that the railroads are under the control and regulation of Louisiana so long as they are within their borders. He then appealed a writ of habeas corpus.

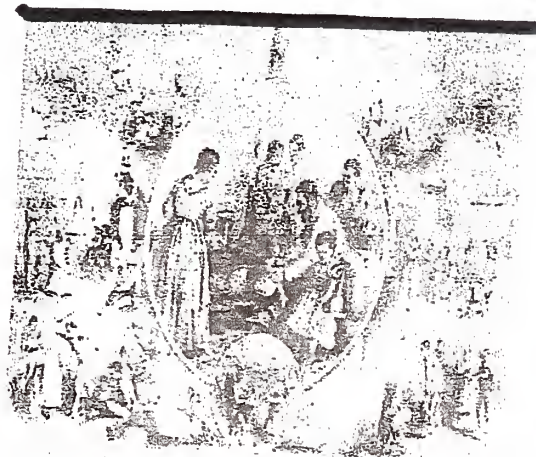




President Andrew Johnson *believed* the Southern states should decide the course that was best for them. He also felt that African-Americans were *unable* to manage their own lives. He certainly did not think that African-Americans *deserved* to vote. At one point in 1866 he told a group of blacks visiting the White House that they should emigrate to another country.

Some scholars have estimated that by 1890, nine out of ten African American farmers were sharecroppers. Despite the many handicaps that African Americans face and widespread white southern opposition to their owning land, a substantial minority of African Americans did manage to acquire their own land in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

In 1886, African American farmers joined together to form a mutual-support organization, the Colored Farmers' Alliance, modeled on the white Farmers' Alliance founded two years earlier. This cooperative endeavor supported its members and aided in the progress of independent African American farms. Meanwhile, the founding of black-owned banks and other financial institutions helped in their efforts. About fifty black-owned lending institutions were founded between 1880 and 1911. By 1910, around 200,000 African American families had managed to obtain their own farmland. Their holdings totaled something over fifteen million acres—an average of about 75 acres per family



The effects of Reconstruction



"Riots rocked New Orleans on July 30, 1866, when a convention met to stop Louisiana's *Black Codes* from taking effect. Official reports listed 37 dead and 146 wounded, but witnesses claimed that the tolls were much higher.



Extolling Indiana's Early Colored Women's Clubs

T h e H i s t o r i c a l C o n t e x t

In recent times, more African American history is being recovered, restored and becoming known. Historical scholars have found significant first hand accounts that have been disregarded or overlooked, causing analysts to revisit the accepted historical narrative of nineteenth century America. For example, Eric Foner, a noted historian, who has done extensive research on America's Reconstruction period, discovered in South Carolina's State Archives, in 1978, "121 thickly packed boxes of correspondence received by the state's Reconstruction governors." ¹ These documents which "had been *untapped* by scholars", according to Foner, "contained an incredibly rich record....of black and white Carolinians attempting to rebuild their lives after the Civil War and the abolition of slavery, of struggles for human dignity and ignoble violence by the Ku Klux Klan". ² United States history barring on race and its related politics, is being more even-handedly recounted, overturning the commonly held traditional Dunning School diktat, which portrayed blacks as 'childlike' and 'incapable of properly exercising the political rights Northerners had thrust upon them'. ³ As early as 1935, W.E.B. Dubois in his *Black Reconstruction in America* had called into question the accepted historical record, indicting historians for ignoring the accounts of "the principal actor[s] in the drama of Reconstruction-----those [recently emancipated]..." ⁴ Historical accounts published in recent times are revealing untold stories and shedding a much deserved 'light' on those who struggled, sacrificed, and worked diligently to make possible the progress of a populace long held captive within the vise of oppression. We are learning more about these lesser knowns who stood on the precipice of justice, demanding human and civil rights for blacks, oftentimes in the face of great peril. ⁵ One constructive outcome has been the more balanced and accurate coverage of America's citizens of color in U.S. history school textbooks in the nation's school systems.

The U. S. Congress, after the Civil War, passed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery, the 14th Amendment conferring citizenship and the 15th Amendment securing for the freedmen the right to vote. After the War, without a lasting redistribution of land to freedmen as required by the Civil Rights Bill of 1866, and the shutout of gainful employment in the North, a failed transition was assured for the former slaves. ⁶ The Civil Rights Law of 1875 gave blacks the right to public accommodations, such as transportation, hotels, etc. Declaring some portions of the 1875 Civil Rights unconstitutional, the U.S. Supreme Court, in 1883, ruled that Congress lacked the power to protect civil rights against private citizens. ⁷ Eventually, with their citizenship rights abridged, the system completely segregated blacks. The doctrine of 'separate but equal' that evolved out of the 1896 U.S. Supreme Court decision of the Plessy v. Ferguson case, temporarily ended any "black chances of full participation in and unfettered access to American educational and social institutions". ⁸ Reconstruction ended summarily after President



BLACK INSTITUTIONS.....SAVING GRACE

Hayes withdrew federal troops from the South in 1877. The end result was the economic and political plight of blacks regressing at every level. The South began an oppressive economic system, a form of quasi-slavery, which forced black workers to accept tenant farming, sharecropping, and/or unskilled low paying jobs, in order to earn a livelihood. Having been left to fend for themselves without any independent viable means of making a living, the freedmen found themselves entrapped. The withdrawal of troops sealed their fate, and without federal protection, “whites set about re-establishing white control through violence, fraud and intimidation, with [the] end result of regaining total power--- politically, socially, and economically--- in the late 1870’s”. 9

Historically oppressed in U.S. society, African Americans have claimed and sought to safeguard their human dignity, meet community needs and attain self-affirmation by founding their own institutions. As early as the 1770’s, freedmen demonstrated efforts at self-help and sharing by establishing mutual aid societies, and other private organizations.¹⁰ A black Masonic order has existed and flourished within the black community since the Revolutionary War. ¹¹ Upon gaining freedom, those formerly held in bondage sought to establish autonomy by forming their own Baptist and AME churches, reconstructing their families, and legalizing their marriages. For blacks, however, the glow of freedom, with its according of U.S. citizenship, its enfranchisement, its promise of economic independence and educational opportunities proved short-lived; the problems that arose for them in the aftermath of the Civil War were complex and many. The war had ended with the entire country having been shaken to its core. In the wake of unparalleled change, and with all strata of American society affected, the public domain was out of kilter, in a state of flux, rife with gross uncertainty. Tugging at America’s very essence-- a discordant issue that emerged was--- ‘the *meaning* of America’; American society found itself in a dilemma, unsure of governments function/role. The U.S. government itself was factionalized with the courses pursued by Congress constantly causing turbulence amongst its members. With this impasse, the needs of the newly freed went unmet and caught between competing theories in ‘mainstream’ America, especially in the North, in regard to how a free labor system should operate. In general, whites believed that blacks wanted the role of government expanded to meet their basic needs so they would not have to work; while blacks, lacking resources and being penniless, believed governmental assistance was critical for their survival. They felt governmental help was required, in order for them, to have a start and survive the transition to independence, since their centuries of involuntary servitude had lacked any pecuniary compensation.

Changes in labor, following the Civil War, came upon the heels of another momentous development---industrialization. As widespread industrialization transformed the nation, the accepted model of labor and capital as conflict free came into question. In *The Death of Reconstruction: Race, Labor, and Politics in the Post-Civil War North 1865-1901*, Heather Cox Richardson declares, “...fear of a perceived black rejection of the free labor ideal, coupled with anxiety over labor unrest, made the self-styled “better classes” abandon the mid-century vision of an egalitarian free labor society that included blacks as well as whites.” ¹² The entrenchment of racism, its unyielding tentacles sunk deep into U.S. institutions, gained an unfettered, accepted permanence in American society. Blacks,

All Colored People THAT WANT TO GO TO KANSAS.

On September 5th, 1877,
Can do so for \$5.00

IMMIGRATION.

VISION.—We, the colored people of Lexington, Ky., knowing that there is an immense tract of land now belonging to the Government, have assembled ourselves together for the purpose of settling on said lands. Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED. That we do now organize ourselves into a Colony, as follows:—
Any person wishing to become a member of this Colony can do so by paying the sum of one dollar in 1877, and this money is to be paid by the first of September, 1877, in installments of twenty-five cents at a time, or otherwise as may be desired.

RESOLUTION. That this Colony has agreed to consolidate itself with the Neodesma Town, Solomon Valley, Graham County, Kansas, and can only do so by entering the vacant lands now in their midst, which costs \$2.00.

RESOLUTION. That this Colony shall consist of seven officers—President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Trustees. President—M. M. Bell; Vice-President—James Talbot; Secretary—W. J. Niles; Treasurer—Daniel Clarke; Trustees—Jerry Lee, William Jones, and Abner Webster.

RESOLUTION. That this Colony shall have from one to two hundred militia, more or less, as the case may require, to keep peace and order, and any member failing to pay his dues, as aforesaid, or failing to comply with the above rules in any particular, will not be recognized or protected by the Colony.



by the turn of the 20th century, were relegated to second class citizenship, subjugated to black codes, jim crow laws, and segregation. In the face of these ominous developments, blacks collectively organized associations and clubs to aid their fellow brethren; an endangered segment of US citizenry set adrift to fend for life's basic needs. So important and vital were the black institutions which took root during Reconstruction, Eric Foner, in *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution*, declares, "...the institutions created or consolidated after the Civil War----the black family, school, and church---provided the base from which the modern civil rights revolution sprang."13

Failing to *enforce* the newly enacted laws passed to insure and protect the rights of black Americans, America found itself, after the Civil War, in the thralls of great social, economic change and political upheaval. Due to the abhorrent conditions foisted upon black America, as mentioned previously, many black organizations formed to uplift their be-eaguered and downtrodden brethren. Some of the many institutions that sprung up were started by astute, knowledgeable, powerful black women who formed a national network by organizing women's clubs to build and safeguard the interest of black society. These clubs formed at a fast clip during those harrowing times, joining ranks with other black institutions to step into the chasm to aid those who'd been castoff by mainstream society.

Meanwhile in the South, realizing the futility of their situation, where their humanity was denied, their civil and voting rights withheld, their labor fleeced, their equal protection under the law as citizens unenforced, and the opportunity for advancement in Southern society nil, led to thousands of blacks, in mass, to migrate to the West, to such states as Kansas and Nebraska where [they] hoped for a better life....'14 Large numbers of these migrants, who became known to history as 'exodusters' decided to settle in the Hoosier state. "Between November 1878 and February 1879, more than 1, 100 blacks arrived in Indianapolis alone. A second wave of mass migration swept into [Indiana] in 1890 as blacks fled the final triumph of southern white supremacy, mob violence and lynchings."15

In Indiana, black migrants found many of the same obstacles they'd faced in the South. In response to their oppression, Hoosier blacks formed a multitude of fraternal organizations to meet the needs of their communities. Due to discrimination and being shorn of their basic human rights, Indiana blacks founded numerous "religious, fraternal, social welfare, cultural, and educational organizations, institutions and societies...from the 1860's to the 1930's". 16 From 1890 -1895, society witnessed a period of time when organizational activity escalated among all strata of Americans across the nation, with Indiana not being left out. Due to the combined impact of industrialization, changes in transportation, and urbanization, Americans sought ways to preserve their past mores and values. Americans believed societal concerns could be addressed by organized group action. Black women agreed, feeling this method was the best way "to address the overt causes of and a potent antidote to corruption, racism, poverty, and disease". 17 The seedlings of activism took *root* in the women's clubs, where powerful organizational entities grew, finally maturing by the mid 20th century, to a level, that enabled them to join with other black groups to fight nationally for equity, equality before the law, and the eradication of discrimination



May Wright Sewall

(1844-1920)

in the United States.

While auxiliary women's groups have always sprung up to compliment male lodges, women have independently formed clubs to meet specifically their own needs and purposes, too. A myriad of women's clubs took form. In 1890, white women organized the General Federation of Women's Clubs. In keeping with the accepted practices of that time, GFWC would not permit black women to join their ranks.¹⁸ During that era, white women were indifferent or unaware of black women's groups and were actively opposed to the establishment of any association. "Most white women did not experience social ostracism, segregation and the denial of basic rights. Nor were white women encumbered with the elevation of an entire race".¹⁹ Their realities and identities differed. One notable exception, was May Wright Sewall, whose accomplishments render her one of the most important women in Hoosier history. One of the founders of the Indiana Museum of Art, a founder of the National Council of Women and the International Council of Women, Sewall was one of the leading feminist of her generation.¹⁹ Unlike her peers, she was actively interested and engaged in the problems of black women. In fact, in 1903, she was one of the principal speakers at the formation of the Indiana State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, in Indianapolis.²⁰

The clubs of African-American women are deeply rooted in the church. Without question, the church has played a crucial role in black social development and history. By the turn of the 20th century the black church, the foundation and center of black life, began to assume the role of community leadership, merging both sacred imperatives with secular concerns. It was black women who prodded the church towards service as a welfare agency, shaping it into an institution for social, as well as, spiritual uplift. The black church is where the first organized grouping or meeting of black women took place. Due to the religious ties and the location of club meetings in the churches many of the women's clubs were inextricably bound to the churches. Women in black churches initially acquired training and organizational skills through their involvement in administering various church activities such as missionary societies, social events, fundraising, and aid society programs for challenged members. Hence, clubs, associations, and societies within the church provided its women members the opportunity to develop leadership, (granted furtively), organizational and governance skills. Thus, they were enabled to make significant, meaningful contributions in their communities. For example, several black churches in Terre Haute, in 1914, through their women-led aid societies, banded together to establish a much needed day care nursery, for the many working mothers of their congregations.²¹

Even though women in the black church showed through their church work and activities many qualities, black society refused to veer from viewing a woman's role as one solely of moral uplift. By the late 1890's, large numbers of black women became involved with more secular based clubs, associations, organizations, and societies. While they did not abandon their church clubs, it became apparent to them the inherent structural and organizational limitations imposed by church clubs kept them from working with a broader section of women. They found limiting club membership only to church members and con-



DAISY N. VARNADO

**MRS. DAISY NEWSOME VARNADO
PRESIDENT OF ALPHA ART CLUB**

Gary, Indiana

It has been a pleasure to serve the Indiana Federation as its Art Chairman as well as being past statician and past president of the North Star District.

I had the cooperation of all the women in making the Art Department outstanding. This department set a record for bringing in finance for the State that will be hard to equal. This department captured several prizes. I am now serving my twenty-fourth year as president of the Alpha Art Club, and have the honor of being a life member of the Frederick Douglas Memorial.



ALPHA ART CLUB

Gary, Indiana

The Alpha Art Club of Gary is the only Church club belonging to the Indiana Federation. It was organized Nov. 16, 1916 by Dr. Charles E. Hawkins.

Seated, left to right: Catherine Gross, Geneva Jordan, Mattie Cobb, treasurer; Edna Goodson, 2nd vice president; Daisy N. Varnado, president; Nellie Ward, 1st vice president; Corine Cross (only charter member living); Lena Ventress, and Minnie Williams.

Standing, left to right: Essie Ammons, Agnes Butler, Beatrice Coleman, Corine Jones, Bertha Sloss, Ann Dixon, Rebecca Tolbert, Mildred Phillips, Violet Wade, Narcissus Jackson, Earnestine Jordan, Maggie Shipman, secretary; Essie Bowen; Mary Means, chaplain, and Savannah LaBroi, assistant secretary.

centrating power in the hands of men too confining. Gradually, black women, in Indiana, came to realize club structure needed to be flexible and more inclusive. They knew in order to be able to create and influence black social development they would need to organize more inclusive, secular institutions where new coalitions could be forged and collective action could shift to a broad spectrum of community issues. 22

There were commonalities in the establishment of colored women's clubs. "Usually one woman, or a small group, would found a club by calling a meeting of a few friends. Once assembled in a private home, church, or lodge building the group would debate, discuss, argue, and eventually agree to organize for a particular purpose...It was not unusual for one woman to belong to several clubs and to hold leadership positions simultaneously in each organization. Incidentally, there appears to be an exception to this rule. According to a 1953 state federation booklet, the Alpha Art Club, now defunct, was organized by a Dr. Charles E. Hawkins on November 16, 1916 in Gary, Indiana; reportedly A.A.C. was the only *church* club to hold membership in the Indiana State Federation of Colored women.

For the most part, with black life dominated by low-skill paying jobs, wretched living circumstances, housing limited to ghetto areas, and white bigotry, the present and future for blacks appeared inexorably dire. Therefore, most clubs regardless of their particular socially uplifting project, *justified* their existence in almost *identical terminology*: [seeking] to protect the sanctity of the home, guard the welfare of black children, improve the status of black women or to elevate the race." 23 All clubs raised funds for projects, performed important welfare and charitable functions in their communities where many inhabitants were poverty-stricken and were often new migrants from the rural areas of the South that required assistance in adjusting to a new and sometimes hostile environment. The transition to living in an urban setting had its own challenges for those who had only recently arrived from *rural* areas of the South.

It was from the financial proclivities of those employed in the fields of semi-skilled and/or domestic services and the black middle class that funds were derived for instituting socioeconomic projects to elevate the status and raise the living conditions of black people. As previously pointed out, blacks migrating from the abominable conditions in the South, found themselves in similar circumstances in their new locales-----relegated to sub-par shelter, deplorable living conditions, untenable health care, dead end, penury paying jobs, and unequal education. A small minority of African Americans, however, were able to earn degrees in such professions as lawyers, physicians, businessmen, ministers, and teachers. On the whole, many of the professionals in the black middle class were women teachers, forming the largest educated segment of black society. 24 It was teaching in segregated school systems that principally afforded the most opportunities vocationally for educated blacks, particularly women. "Black women teachers exerted incalculable influence in the classroom as well as in civic and cultural life." 25 They were the most revered, enjoying more prestige and providing more leadership than their counterpart in the white community. An upwardly mobile black middle class did develop by providing services and products to the black masses that patronized them and supported their entrepreneurial ventures. The black middle class grew wealthy, bought real estate and built posh homes



MARY MURRAY WASHINGTON
(1865-1925)

ACTIVIST / EDUCATOR / PHILANTHROPY

Washington, a powerful source in the women's liberation movement and a relentless advocate for the improvement of education for African Americans, created the Tuskegee Woman's Club, during her tenure as Lady Principal of Tuskegee. She helped co-found the National Association of Colored Women in 1896. Amongst her many achievements were the founding of country schools, starting St. Meigs School for boys, opening an industrial school for girls at Tuskegee, and working to improve prisons. She sought to lessen the burdens of the poor and assist the neglected. In 1972, she was inducted into the Alabama Hall of Fame for her compassion, intelligence, and Independence of judgment.

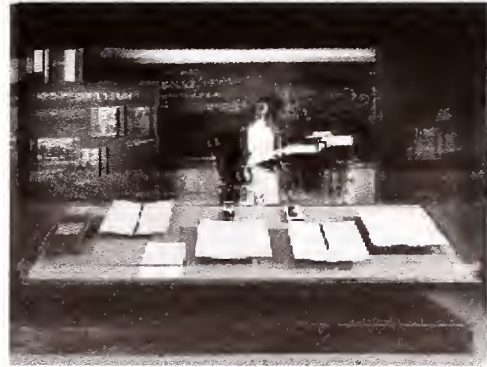


CHARTER GROUP OF NACWC IN 1896

Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, first president, is shown second from the left in the first row.

Four past presidents of the National Association of Colored Women (left to right), Mary McLeod Bethune, Mary Church Terrell, Mary Waring, and Elizabeth C. Brooks, gather for a group picture around 1943. Terrell, founder of the organization, campaigned for women's and black causes for more than 50 years, picketing outside segregated Washington, D.C., eating establishments in her eighties.





Anna Julia Cooper



Mary McLeod Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt



Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin
(1843-1924)

Publisher / Journalist / Activist

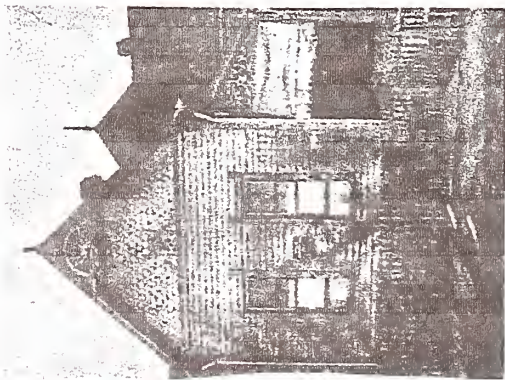
Ruffin, a supporter of women's suffrage, joined with Julia Ward Howe and Lucy Stone to found the American Woman Suffrage Association in 1869. In 1884, she started the country's first newspaper published by and for African American women, *Women's Era*. With the assistance of her daughter, Florida Ridely and Maria Baldwin she organized the Women's Era Club, an advocacy group for black women in 1894. The next year, she organized the National Federation of Afro-American Women. Still active, in the struggle for equal rights, in 1910, Ruffin was a charter member of the N.A.A.C.P.

while accepting community leadership roles, ultimately they set the mark of success within the black community.

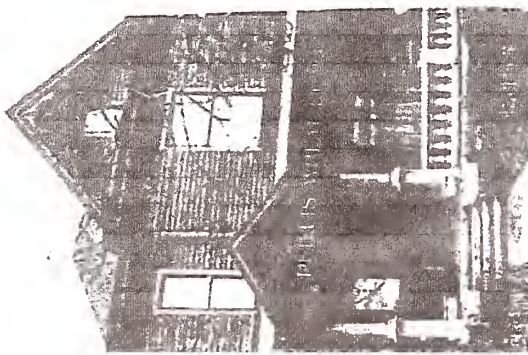
The reason, usually, women professionals exceeded their counterpart was a matter of economics. Since it was necessary for every member of a black family to work in order to exist, keeping children in school meant sacrifice. Girls often received the most schooling, while boys entered the workforce at an early age to help supplement family income. Thus, the failure to educate an overwhelming figure of young black males took place. A higher number of girls were educated and they met with success. In fact, in 1876, the historical record reveals that the first black graduate from an Indianapolis public school was a girl. Most young women attended teacher training schools, after completing normal school. Gertrude Mahorney became Indy's first black college graduate, graduating from Butler University in 1887. During Mahorney's long tenure in the Indianapolis public school system, she was the only black teacher who taught German. ²⁶

As members of black society, the events and projects initiated by women to uplift their communities were influenced by the leadership of black intellectuals, which included such notables as Mary McLeod Bethune, Anna Cooper, William Trotter, Marcus Garvey, Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, Mary Church Terrell, and A. Phillip Randolph. W.E.B. Dubois and Booker T. Washington, both prominent and highly regarded as black leaders nationally, had contrasting ideologies of how to achieve black advancement and progress which caused much oscillation within black circles. In his famous 'Atlanta Compromise' speech, in 1895, Washington proposed that whites grant blacks "the opportunity to advance independently and economically within their segregated sphere in exchange for blacks foregoing, [their] demand for civil and political rights, and social equality". ²⁷ Dubois, on the other hand, believed that blacks needed classical training in order to reach their full potential rather than the industrial education accentuated by Washington and some white philanthropists. Designating the small educated minority of the black community, the 'Talented Tenth', Dubois implored them to wield power due to their knowledge and character, not [their] wealth. He believed this coterie would furnish the leadership necessary to uplift the masses. In his ground swell book, *The Souls of Black Folks*, Dubois pondered the unresolved black dilemma of how to achieve equality in American society without abandoning ethnic identity (i.e. African culture and traditions). ²⁸ He asserted that blacks have collectively wrestled with this impasse at every stage of development, referring to this duality, this double consciousness, as "two-ness".

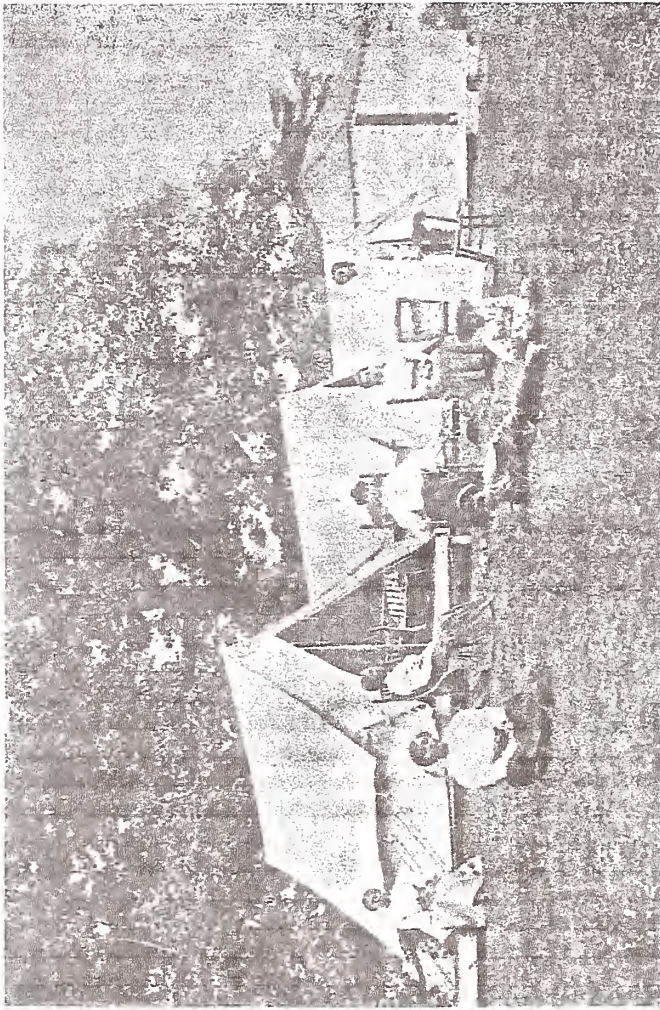
While many blacks in Indiana gave credence to Washington's self-help theories regarding industrial and agricultural work there were seldom opportunities to implement them. Racism and the threat of violence prevented many blacks from purchasing farm land and being agricultural workers. Several nationally prominent black women leaders, having faith in Dubois's "Talented Tenth" premise, believed it was their duty and responsibility as the ten percent of educated black women and the epitome of talented black womanhood to help elevate "the race and reform society".²⁹ Women clubs, in addition, to helping meet the needs of the poor also held self-improvement activities to advance their own status. A friend of such leading white feminist of their day as Susan B. Anthony, Eliza-



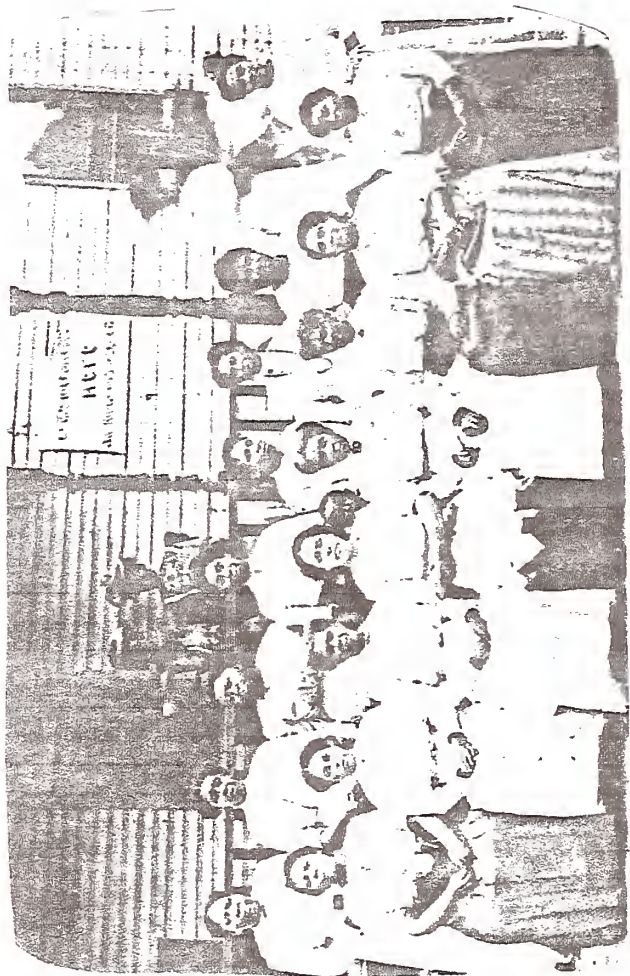
Women's Improvement Club Home
535 Agnes Street, Indianapolis, IN.



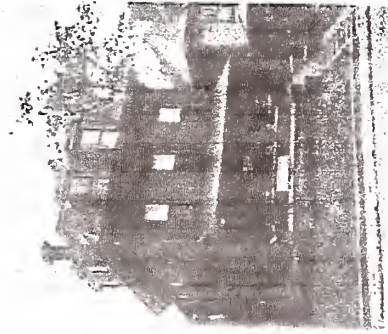
The Phyllis Wheatley Club
Terre Haute, IN



Convalescent Camp at Oak Hill Auspices of Woman's Improvement Club - Sept. 1905.



Early members of the Alpha Home Association



Alpha Home - Indianapolis, IN.

both Cady Stanton and Julia Ward Howe, Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin of Boston, in 1895, spoke before the first national convention of black women. Declaring that black women lacked opportunities of “not only to do more but to be more” emphasized in her speech that they needed to organize to address the multi-faceted issues that affected “them as colored women”.³⁰ From 1900-1920, at the peak of black urban migration from the South, the founding of colored Hoosier women’s clubs, reflected a national trend among black women.³¹ Across the country, colored women clubs formed, developing a unified, consciousness owing to having to address similar societal issues with their club work often being tempered inside the same type of commonly encountered ‘trenches’ (i.e. unemployment, hazardous living conditions, educational inequities, etc.) preying upon black communities. The end result led, eventually, to the growth and development of national women’s groups (e.g. the Federated Colored Women’s Clubs). The Indiana State Federation of Colored Women formed on April 27, 1904, with its membership adopting the following resolution: “We, the Colored Women of the State of Indiana, feeling the need of organized effort, and intending to furnish evidence of material, mental, and moral progress made by our people, do hereby unite in a State Federation”. The social involvement and activism of black women fortified black society.³²

Many women’s clubs focused their efforts on supporting and improving medical & health services. Several clubs formed due to the discrimination and lack of care for black patients. Two remarkable examples are the Alpha Home Association and Sisters of Charity, two early women’s clubs that formed in Indianapolis. Organized in 1883, the Alpha Home for the Aged was opened in the state capitol by Elizabeth Goff, the maid of a wealthy Indianapolis family and a former slave. Goff was concerned about the plight of elderly black women servants who in their declining years were penniless, unemployed, and lacking anyone to care for them. Goff shared her concern with her employer, Pauline Merritt, who suggested to Goff that she gather together a group of associates to find a solution. Responding to Goff’s call, after thoughtfully listening, and unlikely facing a similar fate in their own future--Nellie Allen, Malinda Kersey, Mimi Lewis, Huldah Bates Webb, Elizabeth Johnson, Jane Jackson Martha Hall, Sadi Hill and Arilla Knox all joined the cause of arising to help this particular group of women.³³

Illiterate, Goff served for a year as the club’s first president as an acknowledgment for her initiative. Kentuckian Huldah Bates Webb, economically secure, educated, a skilled leader, who migrated to the city, after the Civil War, succeeded Goff as president, serving in that position for nine years; later she served twelve years as treasurer. Actively assisting her husband, Charles Webb, in several joint business enterprises that steadily raised their quality of life, Huldah was committed to forming and leading at least six colored women’s clubs. No one served as president of the Alpha Home as long as Julia Johnson Reed, who headed the organization for twenty-five years. So pleased was Merritt with the commitment demonstrated by the club, she donated land and a three room house to the Alpha Home Association. Ranging in age from seventy-five to ninety years, the first women residents of the home to be admitted, in 1866, were all ex-slaves, poor, and friendless. Later, elderly, infirm ex-slave men were accepted into the facility. The Home proved so successful that eventually funds to assist it were appropriated by Marion



Lillian Thomas Fox

(1866-1917)

Journalist / Activist

In September of 1891, Fox signed on to be an assistant correspondence editor for the *Indianapolis Freeman*, a nationally prominent black newspaper. Her journalistic work at the paper drew her national recognition from both black and white presses which acclaimed her writing and reasoning abilities. Hired in 1900, by the *Indianapolis News*, she became the first African American to write a regular news column for a mainstream newspaper. She wrote a column centered on covering the activities of black Hoosiers.

Fox, a distinguished national public speaker, was very active in community affairs. She was the Indiana representative to the executive committee of the National Afro-American Council and also helped co-found the Indianapolis Anti-Lynching League. With Beulah Wright Porter, the first black female physician in Indianapolis, she founded the Women's Improvement Club in 1903. At a time, when health care was separate & unequal and tuberculosis was ravaging the black community these two women and W.I.C. club members were responsible for saving countless lives.

In 1904, Fox was instrumental in the formation of the Indiana State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

County. Due to the accomplishments of Alpha Home, the work and service of those involved, stood as a model for years of the dedication and talents of black women. In 1914, the first African American woman millionaire, Madam C. J. Walker, donated \$ 500.00 to the Home.

Deploing the lack of adequate black health care facilities, the Sisters of Charity of the State of Indiana, organized in 1874, in Indianapolis, to focus on health issues and provide medical services for the poor. Their work is a key illustration of black initiative and self-help. Many blacks suffered from inadequate hospital facilities where they received demeaning treatment. By 1910, thousands of indigent blacks had migrated into the city and were unable to get the health care they needed. Two years later, the Sisters of Charity with the help of local black handy men and fundraising had leased a two-story frame building, turning it into a fourteen room hospital. Becoming a community project it was one of the first black hospitals owned and operated by blacks in Indiana. ³⁴ Eventually, the venture proved too expensive and the organization had to abandon the hospital. Another black organization, the Women Improvement Club, "subsequently rented and renovated the structure, using it to house advanced black tuberculosis cases."³⁵

The Women Improvement Club chapter was formed in 1903 by women educators brought together by Lillian Thomas Fox, the first African-American reporter, at the Indianapolis News, where she worked for many years. Mirroring the club's purpose in its name, W.I.C. stressed self-improvement for its members and also community improvement. Its programming followed the course of most women's clubs which included the study of literature by or about black women, music recitals, and guest lectures by well-known blacks such as Mary Church Terrell and W.E.B. Dubois. By its second year, the club decided to include philanthropy in its work. Because tuberculosis was the most insidious disease rampant in the African American community, W.I.C. focused its work on prevention and ameliorating the social conditions that augmented the disease. W.I.C. later affiliated with the National Association of Colored Women. A renowned national orator, Fox was instrumental in the formation of the Indiana State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. ³⁶

Two years prior to St. Pierre Ruffin's appeal, the first known black women's organization formed. Reportedly, according to Charles Harris Wesley, in *The History of N.A.C.W. Clubs: A Legacy of Service*, the first black women's organization was formed by Hallie Quinn Brown of Wilberforce University, Ohio. Requesting that there be a black representative appointed to the 1893 Colombian Exposition, Brown discovered that board membership was accorded only to representatives of national organizations. Brown, eager and determined that there be black representation on the planning board of that event, organized the Colored Women's League of Washington D.C. Uniting thirty-six women's clubs in twelve states, Mary Margaret Washington, in 1895, was instrumental to the organization of the National Federation of Afro-American Women. In 1896, the Colored Women's League merged with the N.F.A.A.W, to become the National Association of Colored Women, a stronger and more effective organization with broader influence. Within twenty years, the N.A.C.W. represented 50,000 black women in twenty-eight state federations and over one thousand different clubs. This organization became the first cohesive national communi-



Mary Church Terrell
(1863-1954)

Educator / Journalist / Activist

Terrell was one of the first African American women to earn a college degree; majoring in the Classics she graduated from Oberlin College in 1884. She earned her Masters degree in 1888 from Oberlin. Multilingual, Terrell taught at both the high school and college levels. Actively involved with the National American Woman Suffrage Association, she joined with Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin to form the Federation of Afro-American Women. She helped found many organizations that were on the cutting-edge of educational progress for that time period. Singularly and alone she was a trailblazer. In 1904, invited to speak at the International Congress of Women, in Berlin, Germany, the only black woman in attendance, she honored the host nation by delivering her address in German. A founding member of the N.A.A.C.P., a staunch worker for woman's suffrage and civil rights, as a senior, she participated in picket lines to desegregate public businesses, such as restaurants and theatres. She lived to see women get the right to vote and the courts desegregate of public schools.



Hallie Quinn Brown

(1849-1949)

Educator / Orator / Civic Leader

Born in 1849, in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania to parents who had been slaves. At age 15, Hallie moved with her family to Ontario, Canada, and then, in 1870, to Wilberforce, Ohio. She graduated from Wilberforce University in 1873 with a Bachelor's of Science degree. After graduation, she taught school in Mississippi and South Carolina. In 1885, she became dean at Allen University, followed by a period of time teaching in the Dayton, Ohio public school system. Later, she worked with Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee Institute, after being appointed a lady principal, dean of women.

In 1894, Brown began to speak nationally and internationally on African American culture and temperance. Her travels took her to Europe where she spoke before British royalty and international organizations such as the World's Women Christian Temperance Union (1895) and the International Congress of Women (1899). A key supporter of Warren Harding, she spoke before the national Republican convention in 1924.

Brown was dedicated to federated women's clubs. She served as president of the Ohio Federation of Colored Women's Clubs from 1905 to 1912. She was the 7th president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs from 1920 to 1924.



Sallie Wyatt Stewart
(1881-1951)

cations network amongst black women. 37 Its first president was Mary Church Terrell, who led the organization for five years. In Indiana, as in other states, all clubs were welcome to affiliate with the federation, if working on religious, moral education or charitable projects.

The epitome, in Indiana, of the black women's club leadership, without question, was Sallie Wyatt Stewart, who came from an impoverished background herself, the eldest of seven siblings. Throughout the state, in the black community, her name became synonymous with distinction due to her work in the black women's movement. She came to the fore of the movement in the 1920's. The story of Stewart's early, formative years of life reflects the type of buffeting those whom she rose to help faced. Born in 1881, in Tennessee, Stewart, as a young girl, along with her siblings, moved to Evansville with their parents, Armstead and Eliza Jones Wyatt. Hoping to find in Evansville a better economic climate, Armstead, unfortunately, shortly after arrival, contracted a disabling disease that left him an invalid. Her parents believed in education and Sallie's teacher aware of her student's high aptitude did not allow Sallie to drop out. So in spite of the family's grim circumstances, while Sallie and her mother went to work in low-paying domestic jobs, Sallie was able to stay in school. Graduating in 1897, from Governor High School as class Valedictorian, Stewart attended the Evansville Normal teacher training school. Other schools she attended were IU-Evansville and the University of Chicago. After earning her teaching degree, she entered the Evansville Public Schools where she taught every grade from 1st through 12th. She taught for half a century, initiating the first courses in domestic science, stenography and mental hygiene at the predominantly black high school, Lincoln. She married Logan Stewart in 1911; the couple established a successful real estate business which proved to be lucrative. After her husband's death, she took over the running of the company. 38

In 1915, Stewart joined the NAACP and later founded the Evansville Colored Association of College Women, where she tirelessly encouraged young black women to pursue college educations. It was her attending the biennial National Association of Colored Women convention in 1918 that would alter the direction of her life. 39 Upon her return home, she was entreated by some women to take up the reigns of their club which was lacking a firm purpose and service project and on the verge of disbanding. Stewart accepting the helm of the club, immediately noticed the community's need for a nursery daycare center.

More and more women were being forced to work to provide for their families, leaving older children to take care of younger brothers and sisters. The outcome of this situation was proving detrimental for all involved. Older children were missing schooling and younger children were not receiving proper care. Another factor compounding the developments of that time was the many black women widowed by the loss of spouses in World War I. One result was the migrating of single-parent women to live in Industrial areas to find employment to raise their standard of living. Within six months, under Stewart's leadership, the club had raised \$2,000 and made a down payment on a nine room home, which became the nursery. The Day Nursery opened staffed by club members, most of them schoolteachers, providing the care for the children. Aware of the need for



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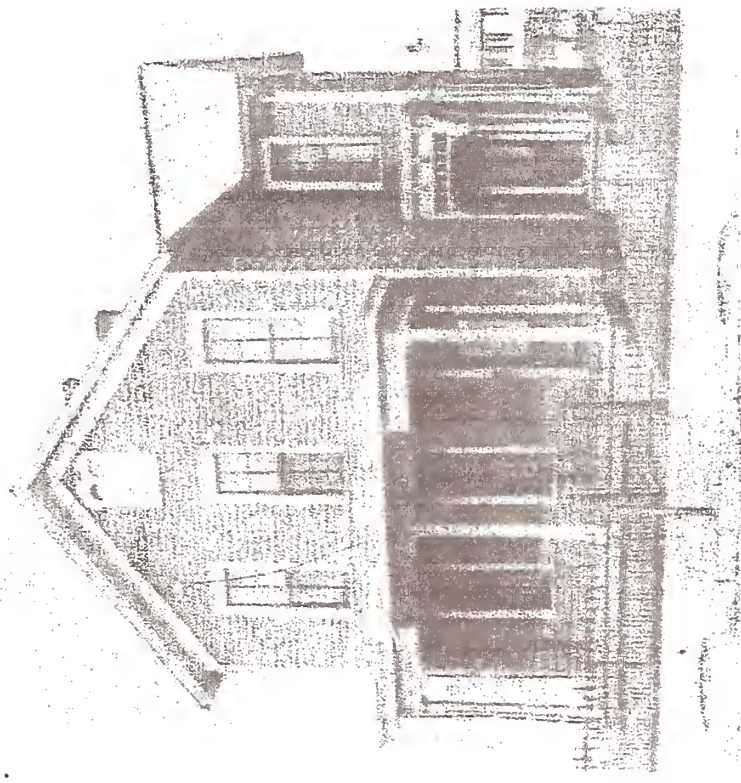


International Women's Council 1930's onward.....



Day Nursery Association Building
 Evansville, Indiana

Sallie Stewart led the drive to establish the association due to the critical needs of black women who'd been cast into being primary breadwinners of their families due to losing their husbands in World War I.



Phyllis Wheatley Home
 Evansville, Indiana

A recreation center & boarding home for girls, the home was formally opened in November of 1922, as a result of Sallie Stewart's dedication and the fundraising efforts of her club.



Phyllis Wheatley

(1753-1784)

P o e t

W h e a t l e y was stolen from her parents, as a young child, and brought to America and enslaved. A quick learner, her owners taught her to read and write. By age 14, she had written her first poem. A poem she dedicated to President George Washington garnered her much acclaim nationally and internationally. She became celebrated and highly regarded for her writing. In 1773, a collection of her poetry was published.

Wheatley was a member of the first recorded generation of African American intellectuals; they were writers, petitioners, inventors and artist intellectuals born around the middle of the 18th century who argued that their intellect proved that people of African descent were fully human and were limited due to slavery and therefore deserving of rights accorded other Americans in this new nation. This movement, known as the African American Enlightenment,, was a generation of blacks who gave **VOICE** to the humanity of African people and their right to be treated with human dignity.

housing for young black women entering the city, the club formed the Girl Protective League and busied themselves raising enough money to open a second home. In November of 1922, the Phyllis Wheatley Boarding Home and recreational center was dedicated in the black community. 40

Stewart's widely acknowledged exemplary oratory skills, self-assurance, confidence, perseverance, and renowned powers of persuasion led her to the pinnacles of power in the black women's movement at all levels-- local, state, and national. She reached the peak's summit, in 1928, when she was elected unanimously president of the N.A.C.W., at the national convention held that year in Washington D.C. 41 After a great deal of patience and persistence, she successfully instituted her plans to reorganize the internal structure of N.A.C.W., after its adoption by a hesitant membership. In 1930, she traveled to Vienna Austria, as an accredited delegate to the International Council of Women; Stewart was elected its 4th vice-president, the first black woman to serve in an official capacity in the organization. Upon her death, in 1951, she left over \$100,000 in her estate for the education of young black girls.

The motto of the National Association of Colored Women, 'Lifting as we Climb', became the underpinning mantra of black women's clubs across the country. 42 Through their church work, black women were able to hone the necessary skills and acquire the tools needed to successfully achieve club projects they formulated outside the traditional purview. The club movement spread exponentially at the grassroots level where women envisioned major leadership roles outside the church, taking up the civic demand for equality and justice under U.S. law. These clubs sought to economically uplift, nurture social progress, etc. In later years, African American women played an influential and significant role by organizing women's clubs to tackle civil rights issues, leading to the end of segregation in the state and the honoring of black achievements and ethnic traditions. These organizations implemented, as noted, "uplifting projects to protect the sanctity of the home, safeguard the well-being of black children, improve the status of black women or to elevate the race" [by sponsoring enrichment activities and cultural programs]. 43

For the most part, the history of African American women, in general, has been allowed to lapse into obscurity. 44 Their stories, their critical community leadership role, their accomplishments, historically, have been overlooked, disregarded or treated as inconsequential. Throughout this country African American histories are being retrieved, studied, and preserved for posterity. The story of colored women clubs--institutions started by African American women---is a basic salient component of that history which should no longer go largely unnoted. Black women have been called upon, due to the dictates of black society, to not only focus on their own self-improvement but to work for the advancement of their brethren. Closely tied to the church, black society has seen the role of women primarily as one of moral uplift. Arising to meet that challenge, while facing both racial and gender discrimination, black women have played a pivotal role in the development of black society, both philanthropically and culturally. Colored women's clubs, founded by influential community women, set in motion integral socioeconomic projects and launched rudimentary programs in all spheres of communal development that con-



Jessie Jacobs

Mrs. Jacobs registered as a lobbyist and lobbied for numerous black rights causes, including the right to live in dormitories and eat in the dining rooms of the state's institutions of higher education, namely Indiana, Purdue and Butler Universities.



Rosalyn C. Richardson

Mrs. Richardson refused to accept the educational fate assigned her children and launched a historical campaign to end school segregation.



Ollie Weeks

Mrs. Weeks grew more critical of racial segregation in Indianapolis, which she described as "The Northern town with a Southern exposure." She steamed over the fact that many companies with government contracts blatantly violated FEPC regulations and persisted in discriminatory hiring practices.

In 1949, two of Indianapolis' leading black attorneys, Willard B. Ransom and Henry J. Richardson, under the N.A.A.C.P. banner, took on the fight to desegregate the public school system with the support of a nucleus of three black women----- Rosalyn Richardson, Jessie Jacobs, and Ollie Weeks. In her book, *When the Truth is Told*.....Darlene Clark Hine, recounts the methods that proved so successful for the women. Hine pointed out that the women "welded their existing church and female networks into powerful instruments to mobilize public support, forge black community solidarity, educate and inform the masses, and raise funds to finance costly litigation and behind the scenes lobbying work."

centrating power in the hands of men too confining. Gradually, black women, in Indiana, came to realize club structure needed to be flexible and more inclusive. They knew in order to be able to create and influence black social development they would need to organize more inclusive, secular institutions where new coalitions could be forged and collective action could shift to a broad spectrum of community issues. 22

There were commonalities in the establishment of colored women's clubs. "Usually one woman, or a small group, would found a club by calling a meeting of a few friends. Once assembled in a private home, church, or lodge building the group would debate, discuss, argue, and eventually agree to organize for a particular purpose...It was not unusual for one woman to belong to several clubs and to hold leadership positions simultaneously in each organization. Incidentally, there appears to be an exception to this rule. According to a 1953 state federation booklet, the Alpha Art Club, now defunct, was organized by a Dr. Charles E. Hawkins on November 16, 1916 in Gary, Indiana; reportedly A.A.C. was the only *church* club to hold membership in the Indiana State Federation of Colored women.

For the most part, with black life dominated by low-skill paying jobs, wretched living circumstances, housing limited to ghetto areas, and white bigotry, the present and future for blacks appeared inexorably dire. Therefore, most clubs regardless of their particular socially uplifting project, *justified* their existence in almost *identical terminology*: [seeking] to protect the sanctity of the home, guard the welfare of black children, improve the status of black women or to elevate the race."²³ All clubs raised funds for projects, performed important welfare and charitable functions in their communities where many inhabitants were poverty-stricken and were often new migrants from the rural areas of the South that required assistance in adjusting to a new and sometimes hostile environment. The transition to living in an urban setting had its own challenges for those who had only recently arrived from *rural* areas of the South.

It was from the financial proclivities of those employed in the fields of semi-skilled and/or domestic services and the black middle class that funds were derived for instituting socioeconomic projects to elevate the status and raise the living conditions of black people. As previously pointed out, blacks migrating from the abominable conditions in the South, found themselves in similar circumstances in their new locales-----relegated to sub-par shelter, deplorable living conditions, untenable health care, dead end, penury paying jobs, and unequal education. A small minority of African Americans, however, were able to earn degrees in such professions as lawyers, physicians, businessmen, ministers, and teachers. On the whole, many of the professionals in the black middle class were women teachers, forming the largest educated segment of black society. ²⁴ It was teaching in segregated school systems that principally afforded the most opportunities vocationally for educated blacks, particularly women. "Black women teachers exerted incalculable influence in the classroom as well as in civic and cultural life." ²⁵ They were the most revered, enjoying more prestige and providing more leadership than their counterpart in the white community. An upwardly mobile black middle class did develop by providing services and products to the black masses that patronized them and supported their entrepreneurial ventures. The black middle class grew wealthy, bought real estate and built posh homes

STATE OFFICERS



LOU ELLA KING
Gary, Indiana
STATE HISTORIAN

President Mrs. Edna Isom, Washington
First Vice President Mrs. Celeatha B. Johnson, Gary
Second Vice President Mrs. Juanita Brown, East Chicago
Recording Secretary Mrs. Mable Augusta, Indianapolis
Financial Secretary Mrs. Ruby Avington, Indianapolis
Treasurer Mrs. Lottie Stith, Indianapolis
Auditor Mrs. Evelyn Davis, East Chicago

THE HISTORY OF INDIANA STATE FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

1903 - 1953

Chaplain Mrs. Mary Cobb, Indianapolis
Statistician Mrs. Blanche Cross, Indianapolis
Parliamentarian Mrs. Zerah P. Carter, Evansville
Chairman, Executive Board Mrs. Nellie Smith, South Bend
Secretary, Executive Board Mrs. Maude Robinson, Indianapolis
State Supervisor, N.A.C.G.'s Mrs. Gertrude Williams, East Chicago
Chairman, Trustee Board Mrs. Julia Jefferson, Indianapolis

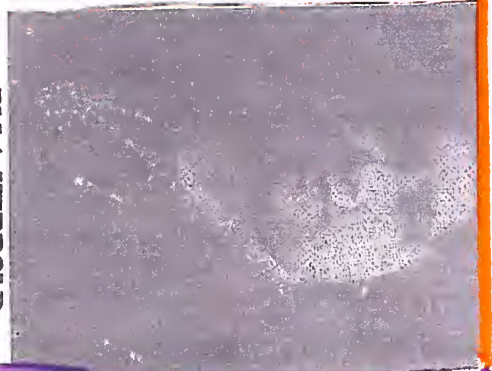


MRS. BLANCHE M. CROSS
Indianapolis, Indiana

She is State Statistician, a teacher in the public schools, a member of the Women's Council since 1916, a member of Phi Delta Kappa Sorority, Club Secretary for twenty (20) years, Club President for ten (10) years, served on Committees of the Central and National Federations and also as Sponsor of the N.A.C.G.'s of Indiana.

INDIANA STATE FEDERATION

STATE PRESIDENTS



ELLA HERROLD
First President of State Federation

The first State meeting was held in Marion, Indiana, April 26, 27, 1905.



MINNIE SCOTT
Second President State Federation

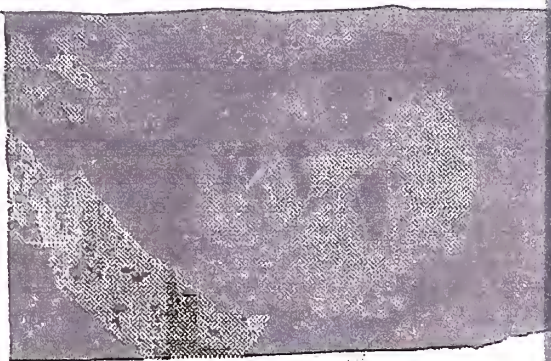
Mrs. Minnie Scott, Indianapolis, Indiana, was elected president in 1907 at Anderson, Indiana.



BESSIE C. JONES
West Baden, Indiana
Sixth President

Elected at Elkhart, Indiana, 1933

"A CONSCIENTIOUS WORKER"



GRACE WILSON EVANS
Terre Haute, Indiana
Seventh President

Elected at South Bend, Indiana, 1935

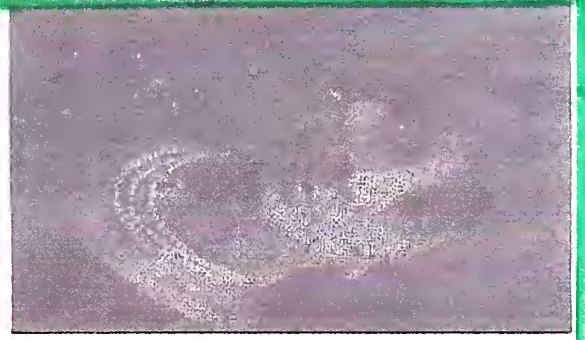
"SERVED DURING DEPRESSION"



MILLIE D. HOFFMAN
Lafayette, Indiana
Tenth President

Elected at Indianapolis, Indiana, 1948

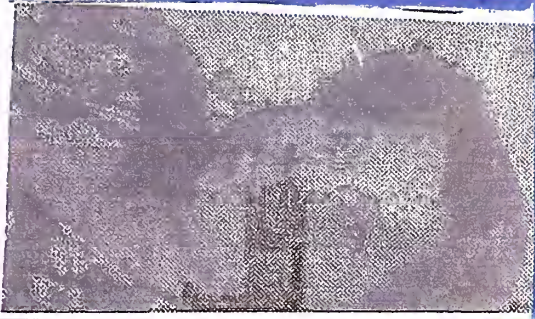
"A QUEST FOR FINER WOMANHOOD"



CARRIE CRUMP
Fifth President

Elected at Richmond, Indiana, 1926

"CLUB HOME A REALITY"



EDNA ISOM
Washington, Indiana
Eleventh President

MRS. SALLIE W. STEWART
Elected at Indianapolis, Indiana, 1921
"A WOMAN OF HIGH IDEALS"

GERTRUDE HILL
Third President

Mrs. Gertrude Hill was elected president in Indianapolis in 1914. She served her presidency with honor and was a credit to the women of her race. She served as president for seven years.



LENA HARRIS

Eighth President

Gary, Indiana

"A VISION TO REDEEM THE CLUB HOME"

...election as President of the Indiana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in Indianapolis in 1940. The mortgage on the building was about to be foreclosed because of an indebtedness of \$7900, but with the loyal support of the club women throughout the State, Mrs. Harris was able to partially pay off the mortgage, leaving an unpaid balance of only \$2100 in July, 1944. This was all done within a period of four years.



HELEN JEFFERSON

Ninth President

Elected at Indianapolis, Indiana, 1944

"A VISION TO BURN THE MORTGAGE"

Under Mrs. Jefferson's leadership and with the support of the club women, the balance of the mortgage indebtedness was paid, which was \$2100, and on July 11, 1945 the mortgage was burned on the lawn of the Club Home.

while accepting community leadership roles, ultimately they set the mark of success within the black community.

The reason, usually, women professionals exceeded their counterpart was a matter of economics. Since it was necessary for every member of a black family to work in order to exist, keeping children in school meant sacrifice. Girls often received the most schooling, while boys entered the workforce at an early age to help supplement family income. Thus, the failure to educate a staggering figure of young black males took place. A higher number of girls were educated and they met with success. In fact, in 1876, the historical record reveals that the first black graduate from an Indianapolis public school was a girl. Most young women attended teacher training schools, after completing normal school. Gertrude Mahorney became Indy's first black college graduate, graduating from Butler University in 1887. During Mahorney's long tenure in the Indianapolis public school system, she was the only black teacher who taught German. 26

As members of black society, the events and projects initiated by women to uplift their communities were influenced by the leadership of black intellectuals, which included such notables as Mary McLeod Bethune, Anna Cooper, William Trotter, Marcus Garvey, Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, Mary Church Terrell, and A. Phillip Randolph. W.E.B. Dubois and Booker T. Washington, both prominent and highly regarded as black leaders nationally, had contrasting ideologies of how to achieve black advancement and progress which caused much oscillation within black circles. In his famous 'Atlanta Compromise' speech, in 1895, Washington proposed that whites grant blacks "the opportunity to advance independently and economically within their segregated sphere in exchange for blacks foregoing, [their] demand for civil and political rights, and social equality". 27 Dubois, on the other hand, believed that blacks needed classical training in order to reach their full potential rather than the industrial education accentuated by Washington and some white philanthropists. Dubbing the small educated minority of the black community, the 'Talented Tenth', Dubois implored them to wield power due to their knowledge and character, not [their] wealth. He believed this coterie would furnish the leadership necessary to uplift the masses. In his ground swell book, *The Souls of Black Folks*, Dubois pondered the unresolved black dilemma of how to achieve equality in American society without abandoning ethnic identity (i.e. African culture and traditions). 28 He asserted that blacks have wrestled with this impasse, at every stage of their development, referring to this duality, this double consciousness, as "two-ness".

While many blacks in Indiana gave credence to Washington's self-help theories regarding industrial and agricultural work there were seldom opportunities to implement them. Racism and the threat of violence prevented many blacks from purchasing farm land and being agricultural workers. Several nationally prominent black women leaders, having faith in Dubois's "Talented Tenth" premise, believed it was their duty and responsibility as the ten percent of educated black women and the epitome of talented black womanhood to help elevate "the race and reform society". 29 Women clubs, in addition, to helping meet the needs of the poor also held self-improvement activities to advance their own status. A friend of such leading white feminist of their day as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady

original idea. There were two hundred eager girls as well as adults present. Our spacious Club Home was filled to bursting and dressing rooms had to be secured next door for the groups from Gary and East Chicago, who journeyed in a bus from the Northern Section. The Past State President, Mrs. C. B. Johnson, and Mrs. Bertha Blunt of Gary and Mrs. Mittie Sinclair of East Chicago were responsible for a crowded bus of over fifty girls attending the pilgrimage. These girls, you may believe me, who were enroute in the bus, had as much excitement and fun on the trip as anyone could possibly have. Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield of Gary were forced to take their car to carry the over-flow that the bus just couldn't possibly cram in, including our State President of N.A.C.G., Miss Jane Smith.

Mrs. Geraldine Coker, the State Supervisor of N.A.C.G.'s with her husband brought her group from South Bend. Mrs. Zerah Carter and Miss Effie Thomas and Mrs. Wanda Washington were present with the girls from Evansville; Mrs. C. R. Richardson and their Supervisor presented a new group of N.A.C.G.'s from Richmond. Mrs. Madeline Irvin of Anderson brought her new group from Anderson and our Past State President, Miss Millie Hoffman, brought a crowded Station Wagon from Lafayette.

The group of girls from Ft. Wayne were present accompanied by Mrs. Mable Strum, Mrs. Lucinda Briggs and Mrs. Margaret Howell. And of course, the Indianapolis girls were present to welcome all.

I do hope I have omitted no one, for with such a bevy of girls, you may realize it was difficult to know them all. A hearty welcome and a fine tribute was given the former State Supervisor, Mrs. Gertrude Williams of East Chicago, who was present, for the fine work she had done previously with the girls.

The program was well planned and interesting for the girls gave their rapt attention; Mrs. Mary Sales conducted a panel composed of three girls and four ladies from the professional field, a physician, Dr. Dixon, a mother of four children; an attorney, Mrs. Harriette Conn, who is now a deputy attorney general but also a mother of six children; Mrs. Hill who is a nurse and Mrs. Williams, who is a Minister's wife, and she returned to school to study religion with her husband; all gave informative

very interesting talks. The panel was summed up by Mrs. Jane Smith, a retired public school teacher, whose experience made it possible for her to say so much.

The Indianapolis Club women served a delicious turkey dinner and the girls were taken to view the beautiful city.

The program was a talent hour and a dedication of the National Association of C. Girls, themselves, and a brief dedication of neon signs for the State Home that had been previously by the girls of the State.

The dedication ceremonies were conducted by Mrs. Gertrude Williams, Mrs. C. B. Johnson and Blanche Cross.

The girls returned to their homes feeling they had a fine day.

* * *

The Club Woman's Garden should contain following:

Five rows of P'S

Perseverance
Promptness
Preparation
Purity
Personality

Three Rows of Squash

Gossip
Criticism
Indifference

Four Rows of Lettuce

Let us be faithful to duty
Let us be loyal and unselfish
Let us be true to our obligations
Let us love one another

Four Rows of Turnips

Turn up for meetings
Turn up with a smile
Turn up with new ideas
Turn up with determination
To make everything count for something
and worthwhile.

Stanton and Julia Ward Howe, Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin of Boston spoke before the first national convention of black women. Declaring that black women lacked opportunities of “not only to do more but to be more” emphasized in her speech that they needed to organize to address the multi-faceted issues that affected “them as colored women”.³⁰ From 1900-1920, at the peak of black urban migration from the South, the founding of colored Hoosier women’s clubs, reflected a national trend among black women.³¹ Across the country, colored women clubs developed a unified consciousness owing to having to address similar societal issues and their work was tempered in the same type of ‘trenches’ commonly encountered (i.e. unemployment, hazardous living conditions, etc.) in many black urban communities . The end result led to the growth and development of national women’s groups (e.g. the Federated Colored Women’s Clubs). The Indiana State Federation of Colored Women formed on April 27, 1904, with its membership adopting the following resolution: “We, the Colored Women of the State of Indiana, feeling the need of organized effort, and intending to furnish evidence of material, mental, and moral progress made by our people, do hereby unite in a State Federation”. The social involvement and activism of black women fortified black society.³²

Many women’s clubs focused their efforts on supporting, improving medical, and health services. Several clubs formed due to the discrimination and lack of care for black patients. Two remarkable examples are the Alpha Home Association and Sisters of Charity, two early women’s clubs that formed in Indianapolis. Organized in 1883, the Alpha Home for the Aged was opened in the state capitol by Elizabeth Goff, the maid of a wealthy Indianapolis family and a former slave. Goff was concerned about the plight of elderly black women servants who in their declining years were penniless, unemployed, and lacked anyone to care for them. Goff shared her concern with her employer, Pauline Merritt, who suggested to Goff that she gather together a group of associates to find a solution. Responding to Goff’s call, after compassionately listening, and although likely not facing a similar fate in their own future--Nellie Allen, Malinda Kersey, Mimi Lewis, Huldah Bates Webb, Elizabeth Johnson, Jane Jackson Martha Hall, Sadi Hill and Arilla Knox all joined the cause of arising to help this particular group of women.³³

Illiterate, Goff served for a year as the club’s first president as a tribute for her initiative. Kentuckian Huldah Bates Webb, economically secure, educated, a skilled leader, who migrated to the city, after the Civil War, succeeded Goff as president, serving in that position for nine years, afterwards serving twelve years as treasurer. Actively assisting her husband, Charles Webb, in several joint business enterprises that steadily raised their quality of life, Huldah was committed to forming and leading at least six colored women’s clubs. No one served as president of the Alpha Home as long as Julia Johnson Reed, who headed the organization for twenty-five years. So pleased was Merritt with the commitment demonstrated by the club, she donated land and a three room house to the Alpha Home Association. Ranging in age from seventy-five to ninety years, the first women residents of the home to be admitted, in 1866, were all ex-slaves, poor, and friendless. Later, elderly, infirm ex-slave men were accepted into the facility. The Home proved so successful that eventually funds to assist it were appropriated by Marion County. Due to the accomplishments of Alpha Home, the work and service of those involved, stood as a model for years of the

OFFICERS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORED GIRLS

Elected July 5, 1958

President	Evelyn Wallace	Gary
1st Vice President	Darline Harris	East Chicago
2nd Vice President	Lois Roberts	Indianapolis,
Recording Secretary	Silva Maples	Richmond
Assistant Secretary	Marva West	Indianapolis
Financial Secretary	Dorothy Easton	Fort Wayne
Corresponding Secretary	Gwendolyne Shannon	South Bend
Treasurer	Almeda Hager	Richmond
Pianist	Mary Scott	Indianapolis
Chaplain	Madalyne Taylor	Anderson
Statistian	Caroline Chenault	Richmond
Auditor	Hazel Carter	Anderson

Our Resolution for receiving \$5,000.00 from the Parent N. A. C. W. passed! Let's keep working to keep these 16 clubs and add more!

Our National President, Mrs. Rosa Gragg will be here as guest speaker of Reverend Ford Gibson's church on Sunday, September 21st. Your State President plans to discuss with her "When we can get the \$5,000.00".

OUR FIRST VICE PRESIDENT IS A BUSY WOMAN.

Fannie J. Benford is quite busy with the G O P Treasurer of Lake County Central Republican Committee. She attended the Testimonial Banquet of Senator William Jenner held in Washington, D. C. Also had dinner our Governor - Harold Handley. She has attended some very grand affairs including a banquet "Branch Rickey" in Chicago at the Carlton Hilton Hotel. Keep us posted on your activities FIRST VICE PRESIDENT!

EXTRA!

EXTRA!

EXTRA!

S P E C I A L

THREE CHEERS FOR DAISY VARNADO

SHE HELPED THE PRESIDENT OUT OF A REAL TIGHT SPOT! PLEASE KEEP IT UP DAISY! (SMILE)

JUNE

1958

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GREETINGS FOR MRS. CELEATHA B. JOHNSON
PAST PRESIDENT

"C H A I N S"

Our discussion is on CHAINS. What kind of chains? Just plain ordinary chains, old rusty, and dirty or the delicate small golden or silver chain. What is the purpose of a Chain? There are many, many kinds of Chains that comes to our minds. We think of the Friendship chain, the chain letters, the Dime Chains and other larger denomination of money; and all of the other chains too numerous to single out. The purpose of a Chain is to bind, hold fast, keep in place, or to hold together.

Prisoners are kept in tact by placing bells on chains on their ankles. We need chains on our tires to keep from skidding in the winter during the icy season. Dogs are kept on chains. Chains are used for pulling, lifting or holding. Chains are also used for adornment, make pretty charm.

We use to sing a spiritual of "Mary wore a Silver Chain, Sister Mary wore a Golden Chain, Sister Mary wore a Golden Chain, every link in Jesus' name, all of my sins are taken away, taken away".

The Chain, that we are going to discuss, is the Chain of N.A.W.C. which is composed of seven links, and is known as the Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. The first link is a link, the foundation, that is built firm and strong, with iron pillars, cement, and stone of love, altruism, wisdom and culture. This is the link of the entire branches of the Federation. Each Club is composed of members like you and I that have joined to lend our talents, our knowledge, our time and our finance to promote scholarship, leadership, community, state and national interests. Standing firmly behind our motto, "Lifting As We Climb".

The only and true way we can lift up anything is to get a hold or grip underneath the object that we are to lift. To lift we will sometimes have to resort to getting soiled or dirty with criticism. This is the right place, the right time to place your hand in God's hand and keep right on.

The second link is our National Association of Colored Girls which is a link that should be strengthened, because no chain is any stronger than its weakest link. Every Club should be

a sponsor of the "Lifting As We Climb" program. Our future Federation. We should organize to "Lift Up A Child In The Way", we have the responsibility to need to start early, so that they will be ready with Federation, to carry the Torch, which has been passed off the field of action.

The third link is the City Federation, where any city having two or more Clubs should bound themselves into the great Chain as a clearing house of cooperation. This is the key-note here.

The fourth link is the District Federation that is composed of the Clubs in the area, where all are a part and can take active parts in the fine programs that are fostered.

The fifth Chain is the State Federation, which is the graduation from the High School training and broadening the lives for larger goals.

The sixth Chain is the Regional, where is composed of States and still preparing you for a higher course. Then we come to the seventh and last Chain which is known as the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs. This is the organization. This is the proving ground. This is the clasp and lock of this great chain, and joins us like the great Hymn that we sing, "Blest be the Chain that binds our hearts in Christian Love" with the chains of Lifting As We Climb.

* * *

THE CALL FROM NATIONAL
HEADQUARTERS

The call comes from our National President, Mrs. Irene McCoy Gaines, announcing the Thirty-first Biennial Convention to be held in Detroit, Michigan, July 26 - August 2nd, 1958. The Convention headquarters - Sheraton Cadillac Hotel. Registration is to be Friday and Saturday, July 25 and 26th at Convention headquarters.

The N.A.C.G. delegates pay \$1.00 registration. The National Association of Colored Women's Clubs delegates pay \$2.00 registration fee to include kit with program and information sheet, etc.

Tentative plans call for an Executive Board meeting Friday evening at 8:00 P.M. and Saturday, July 26th at 10:00 A.M. at headquarters.

Those who wish to make reservations in the hotel may do so.

Single room with Bath - \$7.00 per day
Double room with bath & Twin Beds - \$11.00 per day
Three to a room with bath & Twin Beds - \$13.00 per day

EVALUATION OF INDIANA STATE FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS - 1958

I shall attempt very briefly to glorify the State of Indiana in this short Evaluation.

From Saturday through Tuesday, we fellowshipped together
The sun shone, then it rained, but regardless of the weather . . .

We all know how to spell
And we can spell very well
The name of our great State . . . INDIANA.

We begin with "I" - - - We had Interest in song and speeches; we had Imagination in great things to come; we had Initiative and Inate ability by our N. A. C. G.'s as they gave their views on the educational panels.

We go on to "N" - - - We had New ideas in club reports; we had Nice looking ladies; we had Nearness to God in our devotions and memorial.

We go on to "D" - - - We had Dramatic moments in song; Dramatic hours in the lovely tea at the spacious home of Mrs. Rose Carter.

We go on to "I" - - - We had Ideas that were new; we upheld Ideals in every session; we had an Ideal election; we discussed Integration.

We go on to "A" - - - We had Absence of Argument; we had Alertness, we had Anderson Highlights on Sunday Afternoon.

We go on to "N" - - - We had New clubs, adult and NACG.

We go on to "A" - - - Without this A to end the spelling of INDIANA there would be no Anderson, and we could not have met here. Without A there would be no Lula BeAn, and without her, there would be many dull moments. Without "A" there would have been no banquet, no Anderson chicken, no Madison County gravy. Without "A" . . . no Rose Carter, and we would have been hungry. Without "A" . . . no Madelyn Irvin, a gracious hostess. Without "A" no Fannye Benford to make us feel important by going to Washington, D. C. to dine with Senator Jenner. Without "A" no ZerAh Carter to summarize our fine panels. Without "A" no Ollie Douglass to give us inspiration in song. Without "A" no GerAldine Coker to lead our N A C G.

Without the letter "A" - there would be no INDIANA STATE FEDERATION. Without the letter

"A" we would have had no past State Presidents who have graced this meeting:

Lena Harris Senior past president, who loves to raise money.

Millie Hoffman Who loves to write.

Edna Isom Who loves to sing.

Celetha Johnson Who loves to talk.

JuAnita Brown Who presided so graciously.

Without the letter "A" there would be no new president, our own . . BLANCHE CROSS.

INDIANA CAN FEEL PROUD OF THIS STATE FEDERATION,

The criticisms are few
Many faces are new
It has been well worth while
We can afford to smile

When we spell The HOOSIER STATE OF INDIANA.

(By Millie D. Hoffman)

-●-

GREETINGS TO THE STATE PRESIDENT, OFFICIAL FAMILY AND CLUB MEMBERS
OF INDIANA STATE FEDERATION.

I am sure we are all back home and each of you have had a pleasant vacation and you are busy assisting your local President arrange her Program for the year.

You agree with me, I am sure that we have pleasant memories of our interesting State Meeting at Anderson, then on to the National, at Detroit where many of you attended. You met fine club women from the various States and some from Foreign Countries, the plans contributed by Departments and the Panel discussion gives you many new ideas to present to your local clubs.

In a few days we shall spread the Welcome Mat for you to enter your "Beautiful Club Home" at Indianapolis where we shall in one accord say to our retiring President, Mrs. Juanita Brown, WELL DONE, you leave a very fine record to those who will follow and we congratulate you on your election as 3rd, National Secretary of our great National Association of Colored Women's Clubs.

Let us remember, as each club woman takes one step higher on the ladder of honor either in National, State or District, we go forward with her.

As we finish our message of love and cheer to our retiring President, we stand as a solid Indiana phalanx of club women, to welcome our new President, Mrs. Blanche Cross of Indianapolis and her Official Family, we feel we shall have a fine spirit of cooperation this year.

Let us come in September with fine suggestions for the various departments with a special prayer for our N. A. C. G.'s, the future Indiana Club Women.

Come looking upward, not downward and together we will go forward during the year and not backward.

Yours for Service,

Lena Harris

Lena Harris

dedication and talents of black women. The first African American woman millionaire, Madam C. J. Walker, donated \$ 500.00 to the Home, in 1914.

Deploring the lack of adequate black health care facilities, the Sisters of Charity of the State of Indiana, organized in 1874, in Indianapolis, to focus on health issues and provide medical services for the poor. Their work is a key illustration of black initiative and self-help. Many blacks suffered from inadequate hospital facilities where they received demeaning treatment. By 1910, thousands of indigent blacks had migrated into the city and were unable to get the health care they needed. Two years later, the Sisters of Charity with the help of local black handy men and fundraising had leased a two-story frame building, turning it into a fourteen room hospital. Becoming a community project it was one of the first black hospitals owned and operated by blacks in Indiana.³⁴ Eventually, the venture proved too expensive and the organization had to abandon the hospital. Another black organization, the Women Improvement Club, “subsequently rented and renovated the structure, using it to house advanced black tuberculosis cases.”³⁵

The Women Improvement Club chapter was formed in 1903 by women educators brought together by Lillian Thomas Fox, the first African-American reporter, at the Indianapolis News, where she worked for many years. Mirroring the club’s purpose in its name, W.I.C. stressed self-improvement for its members and also community improvement. Its programming followed the course of most women’s clubs which included the study of literature by or about black women, music recitals, and guest lectures by well-known blacks such as Mary Church Terrell and W.E.B. Dubois. By its second year, the club decided to include philanthropy in its work. Because tuberculosis was the most insidious disease rampant in the African American community, W.I.C. focused its work on prevention and ameliorating the social conditions that augmented the disease. W.I.C. later affiliated with the National Association of Colored Women. A renowned national orator, Fox was instrumental in the formation of the Indiana State Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs.³⁶

Two years prior to St. Pierre Ruffin’s 1893 appeal, the first known black women’s organization formed. Reportedly, according to Charles Harris Wesley, in *The History of N.A.C.W. Clubs: A Legacy of Service*, the first black women’s organization was formed by Hallie Quinn Brown of Wilberforce University, Ohio. Requesting that there be a black representative appointed to the 1893 Colombian Exposition, Brown discovered that board membership was accorded only to representatives of national organizations. Brown, eager and determined that there be black representation on the planning board of that event, organized the Colored Women’s League of Washington D.C. Uniting thirty-six women’s clubs in twelve states, Mary Margaret Washington, in 1895, led to the organization of the National Federation of Afro-American Women. In 1896, the Colored Women’s League merged with the N.F.A.A.W, to become the National Association of Colored Women, a stronger and more effective organization with wider influence. Within twenty years, the N.A.C.W. represented 50,000 black women in twenty-eight state federations and over one thousand different clubs. This organization became the first cohesive national communications network amongst black women.³⁷ In Indiana, as in other states, all clubs were welcome to affiliate with the federation, if working on religious, moral education or chari-

July 1967



ATTEND BANQUET—The 64th annual banquet of the Indiana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs was held recently at the Hotel Van Orman. Greetings were extended by William H. Watson, personnel consultant, Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.; Carl Wilson, worthy master, St. Mary's Lodge, FAM; John Nuckols, first district councilman; the Rev. Lawrence Wyatt, vice president of the Ministerial Alliance; and Mrs. Violet Henry, president of the Ultra Art Club. Mrs. W. W. Stewart, past president of the national federation, was featured speaker. Shown above from left to right are Mrs. Henry Johnson, Gary, past state president; Mrs. Stewart; Mrs. Luke Phillips, Indianapolis, president of the state federation; Mrs. Fannye J. Benford, Gary, president of the regional association; and Mrs. John W. Lyda, Terre Haute, past state president of IFCW.

table projects.

The epitome, in Indiana, of the black women's club leadership, without question, was Sallie Wyatt Stewart, who came from an impoverished background herself, the eldest of seven siblings. Throughout the state, in the black community, her name became synonymous with distinction due to her work in the black women's movement. She came to the fore of the movement in the 1920's. The story of Stewart's early, formative years of life reflects the type of buffeting those whom she rose to help faced. Born in 1881, in Tennessee, Stewart, as a young girl, along with her siblings, moved to Evansville with their parents, Armstead and Eliza Jones Wyatt. Hoping to find in Evansville a better economic climate, Armstead, shortly after arrival, unfortunately, contracted a disabling disease that left him an invalid. Her parents believed in education and Sallie's teacher knowing her student's high aptitude did not want Sallie to drop out. So in spite of the grim circumstances, where Sallie and her mother went to work in low-paying domestic jobs, Sallie stayed in school. Graduating in 1897, from Governor High School as class Valedictorian, Stewart attended the Evansville Normal teacher training school. Other schools she attended were IU-Evansville and the University of Chicago. After earning her teaching degree, she entered the Evansville Public Schools where she taught every grade from 1st through 12th. She taught for half a century, initiating the first courses in domestic science, stenography and mental hygiene at the predominantly black high school, Lincoln. She married Logan Stewart in 1911; the couple established a successful real estate business which proved to be lucrative. After her husband's death, she took over the running of the company. 38

In 1915, Stewart joined the NAACP and later founded the Evansville Colored Association of College Women, where she tirelessly encouraged young black women to pursue college educations. It was her attending the biennial National Association of Colored Women convention in 1918 that would alter the direction of her life. 39 Upon her return home, she was entreated by some women to take up the reigns of their club which was lacking a firm purpose and service project and on the verge of disbanding. Stewart accepting the helm of the club, immediately noticed the community's need for a nursery daycare center.

More and more women were being forced to work to provide for their families, leaving older children to take care of younger brothers and sisters. The outcome of this situation was proving detrimental for all involved. Older children were missing schooling and younger children were not receiving proper care. Another factor compounding the developments of that time was the many black women widowed by the loss of spouses in World War I. One result was the migrating of single-parent women to live in industrial areas to find employment to raise their standard of living. Within six months, under Stewart's leadership, the club had raised \$2,000 and made a down payment on a nine room home, which became the nursery. The Day Nursery opened staffed by club members, most of them schoolteachers, providing the care for the children. Aware of the need for housing for young black women entering the city, the club formed the Girl Protective League and busied themselves raising enough money to open a second home. In November of 1922, the Phyllis Wheatley Boarding Home and recreational center was dedicated in the black community. 40

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Local planners and directors of the convention shown, left to right are: Mrs. Perry G. Strum, Program chairman; Mrs. T. R. Borders, chairman of souvenir and ads committee; Mrs. Therman Howell, general co-chairman; Mrs. Lucille Mosley, president; Lillian Jones Brown, Culture Club; and Mrs. Donald Phillips, supervisor of the local N.A.C. Girls.

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State Convention
-1956-

FORT WARRICK

Stewart's widely acknowledged exemplary oratory skills, self-assurance, confidence, perseverance, and renowned powers of persuasion led her to the pinnacles of power in the black women's movement at all levels-- local, state, and national. She reached the peak's summit, in 1928, when she was elected unanimously president of the NACW, at the national convention held that year in Washington D.C. 41 After a great deal of patience and persistence, she successfully instituted her plans to reorganize the internal structure of NACW upon its adoption by a hesitant membership. In 1930, she traveled to Vienna Austria, as an accredited delegate to the International Council of Women; Stewart was elected its 4th vice-president, the first black woman to serve in an official capacity in the organization. Upon her death, in 1951, she left over \$100,000 in her estate for the education of young black girls.

'Lifting as we Climb' the motto of the National Association of Colored Women became the underpinning mantra of black women's clubs across the country. 42 Black women through their support and work in their churches honed the necessary skills, acquiring the tools needed to successfully operate & advance their agenda, and realize club goals formulated outside the purview domain. The club women's movement began at the grassroots level "having cultivated there the art in several areas-- envisioning major leadership roles outside the church and taking up the banner to struggle against injustices of segregation. 43 These clubs sought to economically uplift, nurture social progress, etc. In later years, African American women played an influential and significant role by organizing women's clubs to tackle civil rights issues, leading to the end of segregation in the state and the honoring of black achievements and ethnic traditions. These organizations implemented, as noted, "uplifting projects to protect the sanctity of the home, safeguard the well-being of black children, improve the status of black women or to elevate the race" [by sponsoring enrichment activities and cultural programs]. 44

For the most part, the history of African American women, in general, has been allowed to lapse into obscurity. Their stories, their critical community leadership role, their accomplishments, historically, have been overlooked, disregarded or treated as inconsequential. Throughout this country African American histories are being retrieved, studied historically, and preserved for posterity. The story of colored women clubs-- -institutions started by African American women----is a basic salient component of that history which should no longer go unnoted. Black women have been called upon, due to the dictates of black society, to not only focus on their own self-improvement but to work for the advancement of their entire brethren. Closely tied to the church, black society has seen the role of women primarily as one of moral uplift. Arising to meet that challenge, while facing both racial and gender discrimination, black women played a pivotal role in the development of black society, leading the way philanthropically and culturally. Colored women's clubs, founded by influential community women, set in motion integral socioeconomic projects, applying rudimentary programs in all spheres of communal development that proved immeasurable to the progress and advancement of black communities. Across the length and breadth of this state, Hoosier colored women's clubs illustrate a noteworthy history that attest to the crucial contributions they made in Hoosier communities in the fields of vital services, culture, and philanthropy. Hence, the evolution and history of colored women's clubs as

73rd Indiana State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs



PROGRAM

Theme: "REACHING OUT, REACHING DOWN,
AND LIFTING UP"

Motto: "LIFTING AS WE CLIMB"



July 10-13, 1976

JOINT SESSION

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORED GIRLS
AND**

INDIANA STATE FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS



**CLUB OLYMPIA EXECUTIVE INN
3501 Goshen and Harris Roads
9 Mile East U.S. 69 at 30 and 33 Exit
Fort Wayne, Indiana
Telephone: 483-8161**

ULTRA ART CLUB

Fort WAYNE,
Indiana



FRONT ROW: (l-r) Marjorie Wreckling, Marjorie Graham, Doris Yeager, and Virginia Sweet
BACK ROW: (l-r) Dolores Wallace, Sandy Duce, Louise Nard, Winifreda Price, Miriam Binkley,
Josephine Williams, Norma Nelson, Catherine Hayden, B. Epps, Violet Henry, and Corrine Brooks.



****Tony Award winning actress /singer, Heather Headley,
is a Fort Wayne Ultra Art Club Scholarship recipient****

demonstrated in this state and across the nation have begun to receive the scholarly research and historical study that is due them.

Fort Wayne was not isolated from the organization of colored women's clubs that ignited within the black community in Indianapolis, across the state and around the nation. The early women's clubs locally were formed modeling the background, purpose, and work reflective of the overall blueprint of colored women's clubs found in communities throughout the country. The earliest known colored woman's club in Fort Wayne is the Ultra Art & Literacy Club, organized in 1911, by C. Adeline Rhodes. Shortening its appellation, in the 1970's, to Ultra Art, and having the distinction of being the second oldest club in the state, the club observed its centenary on October 29, 2011. Elma Alsup, an extraordinary visionary and activist, spearheaded the formation of many of the federated women's clubs in 'the Summit City' last century.

PART II

A significant local history of colored women's clubs within our recent midst is deserving of our attention and acknowledgement. NEXT a brief glimpse of the history of some of Fort Wayne's early colored [African American] women's clubs.



Fort Wayne Museum of Art



St. Mary's SOUP Kitchen

Education

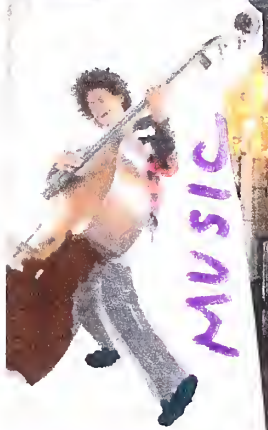


literacy

THE Village



ARTS

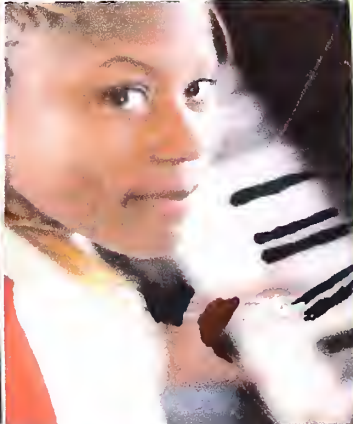
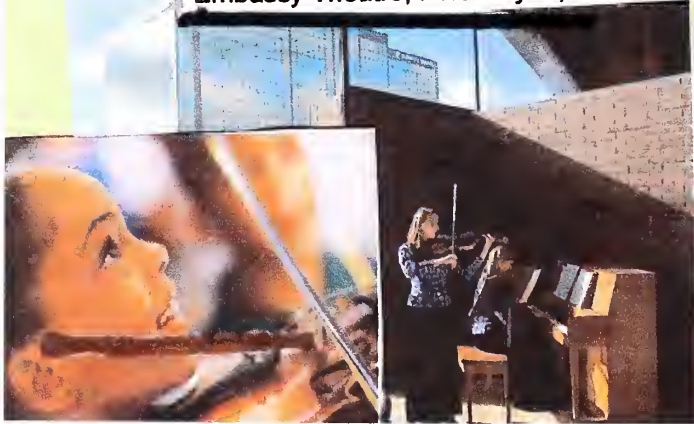


MUSIC



YMCA

Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, IN



community servants

BEREAN
BAPTIST CHURCH
JUNE 7 TEA 1953



Club Women:

Josephine Williams & Helen Babb

Fort Wayne, Indiana (1940's)

PART II

**The History of Fort Wayne, Indiana's
Early Colored Women's Clubs**



(PHOTO COURTESY JOSEPHINE GAINES WILLIAMS)

***ULTRA ART & LITERACY CLUB / CHARTER MEMBERS
1911***

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Ultra Art Club Membership

(Present members are found under
Officers and Committee members on page 1)

Former Members

Rev. Naomi L. Phillips
Mrs. E. Leut Dixon

Silent Members

Mrs. Minnie Stamps	Mrs. Anna Warfield
Mrs. W. Brackenridge	Mrs. Jessie Smith
Mrs. Elizabeth Miller	Mrs. Carrie Wilson
Mrs. Francis Ward	Mrs. Adeline Rhodes
Mrs. Ora Jane Jones	Mrs. Luretta Green Walls
Mrs. Mary Stewart	Mrs. Lillian Dupee
Mrs. Jeanette Underwood	Mrs. Addie Scott
Mrs. Lillie Burden	Mrs. Eunice Martin
Mrs. Jennie Conner	Mrs. Juanita Ford
Mrs. Lydia Bassett	Mrs. Ethel Peters
Mrs. Jeanette Moton	Mrs. Mary Babb
Mrs. Olive Rhodes	Mrs. Florence Lee
Mrs. Jimmie Bradshaaw	Mrs. Delight Taylor
Mrs. Emma Ellis	Mrs. Kate Pattenon
Mrs. Lucreta Curry	Mrs. Golda H. Jones
Mrs. Belle Jenkins	

1911 ULTRA ART CLUB 1986

Program 75th Anniversary Celebration

* * * * *

Mistress of Ceremonies Mrs. William Hayden

INVOCATION THE LORD'S PRAYER
Mrs. Fancis Patterson, *Soloist*

GREETINGS Mrs. James W. Brooks

GREETINGS Honorable Mayor Winfield Moses, Jr.

SOLO Mrs. James H. Epps
Mrs. Alfred Stovall, *Accompanist*

HISTORY OF
ULTRA ART CLUB Mrs. Beauford Williams, Sr.

INTRODUCTION OF
HONORED GUEST Mrs. James C. Graham
President, Ultra Art Club

ADA MARIE FINLEY
Charter Member
Ultra Art Club

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS Mrs. James C. Graham
President

ORGAN MELODIES Recorded by the late
Mrs. Samuel P. (Golda H.) Jones

REMARKS AND
INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS Mrs. William Hayden

CLOSING All stand and repeat:
"Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with ME."



Some of the Ultra Art Club members, May 7, 1918: Back row, from left, Jeanette Moton, Laura Jackson, Mary Stewart and Mrs. Brackenridge (her first name isn't known); middle row, Lillie Burden, Adeline Rhodes, club founder, and Addie Scott; front row, Olive Rhodes and Bessie Williams.

It's an Ultra-special diamond jubilee

When the Ultra Art Club of Fort Wayne celebrates its 75th anniversary Sunday, one of its founding members will be in attendance. She is 98-year-old Ada Marie Finley, now a resident of Detroit, and the only surviving member of the charter group.

"As far as we know, we're the oldest service club in the city," says Marjorie D. Wickliffe, 90, who has been a member since 1917.

There'll be a public reception for the diamond jubilee from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday at Lester's Party Room, 1502 Bluffton



Finley: charter member

acquaintances together and presented the idea of a club for married women; she proposed they meet from 2 to 5 p.m. one afternoon a month to talk of current

Road.
The club, originally called the Ultra Art and Literary Club, was organized by the late Adeline Rhodes in October of 1911. She called nine women

events and do needlework.

Soon they agreed on a great purpose: to promote a better understanding of and appreciation for the arts and to do of charitable works.

The club's first fund-raising event was a box supper used to sell candy, have breakfasts, white elephants etc. all the time," says Corrinne Brooks. "Then we started sponsoring the Fashion Fair and that's been a big fund-raiser ever since." Brooks, who is general chairman of the annual Ebony zine/Johnson Publishing

Turn to 16-MEMBER

16-member Ultra Art Club full of tradition

16-MEMBER From 1D
says it takes six months of work to prepare for it, but "it's worth it. We're now clearing in the neighborhood of \$3,000. We've done so many wonderful things (with the proceeds) ... We've probably cleared about \$40,000 over the years."

The money now goes mostly to scholarships for young people studying music or art. But throughout its history, the club has sponsored concerts by visiting black artists, contributed to McCulloch Recreation Center, the Ministerial Alliance, Fine Arts Foundation, Old Fort

YMCA, St. Mary's Soup Kitchen and Virginia Schrantz's Mission House, among numerous other endeavors.

Membership in Ultra Art is limited to 24, because meetings are held in homes. But Brooks, who has been a member for 40 years, says it is now the largest it has ever been with 16 members. "We haven't had any new members in seven or eight years. A lot of people are interested in what we do, but you have to be married. So many young, unmarried would be interested, I think."

But the tradition of 75 years is strong. Daughters and nieces

carry on work started by their mothers, grandmothers and aunts. Wickliffe's niece, Marjorie Graham, is club president.

The older members are proud of the club's longevity and its community influence. They look forward to Ada Marie Finley's arrival this weekend from Detroit, where the Fort Wayne native who was the club's first secretary has lived for many years.

"Please tell everyone to come out," says Marjorie Wickliffe.

"Mrs. Finley will be 99 on Dec. 3, and I'll be 91 on Dec. 26. Yes, it's quite something."

FRONT ROW: Marjorie Graham, Marjorie Wright, Ada Maria Finley, and Rena Milton.
BACK ROW: Corinne Brooks, Barbara Nard, Delores Wallace, Josephine Williams, Larnesline Stovall,
Violet Henry, Doris Yeager, E. Epps, Virginia Swade, Louise Nard, Wilhelmina Hayden, and Miriam Blanks.



PART II

The History of Fort Wayne, Indiana's Early Colored Women's Clubs

THE ULTRA ART CLUB

In October 2011, the Ultra Art Club of Fort Wayne will celebrate its 100th Anniversary. The word 'ultra', according to 'Google', means 'going beyond moderation'. The club, true to its vision and mission, has garnered a notable history that includes helping many youth in this community develop their gifts and talents. Some of the club's earliest members were Mrs. C. Adeline Rhodes, Carrie Shaw, Jeanette Moton, Lillie Burden, Mary Stewart, Carrie Gaines, Laura Jackson (the first African American F.W.P.D. police-woman), Adda Scott, Bessie Williams, Olive Rhodes, Jennie Connor (the wife of Fort Wayne's first African American physician) and Mrs. Goldie Brackenridge. Having the distinction of being the second oldest black woman's club in the state of Indiana; the club was initially named the Ultra Art & Literacy Club. By the 1970's, the club had shortened its name to Ultra Art. Club membership is limited to 20, since members meet in each others' homes. ¹ Current members of the Ultra Art Club are Joyce Graham-Coats, president, Ernestine Stovall, treasurer, Julia Rogers, Decarlo Whitfield, Doris Yerger, Thelma Russell, Karen Coleman, and Veronica Townes.

The club began on October 29, 1911, when the club's founder, C. Adeline Rhodes, held in her home a tea, for a small group of women acquaintances, to form a black, married women's club that would meet monthly to do needlework and discuss current affairs. Their meetings, in the beginning, centered around doing handiwork projects such as embroidery, knitting, painting dishes, quilting and giving book reviews or reports on current events. ² Soon, however, after formation, club members adopted the broader mission of promoting a better understanding of and appreciation for the arts, as well as performing charitable works. Over the years, the club's influence grew, as they sponsored and co-sponsored cultural and educational programs that benefited the entire community. Among the notable artists and African American leaders of national and international acclaim the club brought to Fort Wayne were Roland Hayes (Vocalist/Tenor), Mary McLeod Bethune (Civic Leader/ Educator), Mahalia Jackson (Gospel Singer), Phillipa Schuyler (Child Prodigy/Pianist), Clarence Cameron White (Violinist/ Composer), Marion Anderson (Opera Singer/Contralto), and Vivian Carter Mason (then President of the National Council of Negro Women). ³

The primary club goal was to assure gifted, promising black youth in Fort Wayne had the financial assistance needed to receive lessons in music, dance, drama, or art to develop their talent. Applicants for Ultra Art scholarships had to be referred by school instructors in the arts and had to be in 4th- 12th grade. The awarding of the scholarships were based on talent and financial need with a preference given to elementary school children. Previous recipients, especially any deemed exceptional, were given preference for further assistance, if other eligibility requirements continued to be met. To date, the most successful Ultra Art scholarship beneficiary is Heather Headley, who has gone on to national and internation-



(l-r) Elma Alsup, Goldie Jones, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Marjorie Wickliffe

Welcoming Mary McLeod Bethune to Fort Wayne (April, 1940)

Marian Anderson

Marian Anderson's first big appearance was as soloist with the Philharmonic Symphony Society of Philadelphia. This was followed by a song recital in Town Hall, New York, where such critics as W. J. Henderson called her voice one of the greatest contraltos of the day, and a recital at the Philadelphia Academy of Music, when she again scored a success with both public and press. In 1925 Miss Anderson entered the New York Stadium Contest and from three hundred singers from all parts of the country, she was chosen to sing with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra at the Lewisohn Stadium. Since then she has sung throughout the country and is everywhere acclaimed as the possessor of one of the great contralto voices of our generation.

The Wheatley Center Women's Industrial Club is indebted to the following list of persons who very graciously purchased Patron's seats for this recital and made it possible for us to underwrite a great portion of the expenses of the concert:

Marian Anderson Recital Patron's List

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. H. J. Grosvenor | Mr. Samuel Mulholland |
| Mrs. O. N. Gullifin | Mr. I. H. Moore |
| Mrs. Henry Bowerbird | Miss Irma Hurrell |
| Miss Layton Sperry | Mrs. B. P. Weaver |
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| Mrs. Edgar J. Unthank | Prof. W. A. Hansen |
| Mrs. Thomas H. Mollin | Mr. J. W. W. Robinson |
| | Mrs. Marjorie Wickliffe |

Marian Anderson, Contralto



Appearing in Fort Wayne

Under the Auspices of the

Wheatley Center Women's
Industrial Club

Mrs. Lorena Greene, President; Miss
Ida Mae Patterson, Secretary; Elma E.
Alsop, Secretary Women's Dept.; Mrs.
Marjorie Wickliffe, Chairman of Ticket
Committee.

At

North Side High School
Auditorium

Friday, April 5th, at 8:30

Assisted By

William L. King

At the Piano

PROGRAM

I.

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| Care Selve (from "Arlana") | Handel |
| Gia il sole dal Gange | Soprano |
| Plaisir d'amour | Martin |
| Air de Lia (from "L'Enfant Prodigue") | Debussy |
| II. | |
| Der Zwerge | Schubert |
| Wiegenslied | Brinns |
| Der Schmied | Strauss |
| Zueignung | |
| III. | |
| Night on Wavy Unknown Has Fallen | Griffes |
| The Soldier's Bride | Rachmaninoff |
| Dream Valley | Quilzer |
| Song of the Open | La Forge |
| IV. | |
| NEGRO SPIRITUALS | |
| Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley | Dawson |
| De Gospel Train | Burleigh |
| Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child | Brown |
| Dere's No Hidin' Place Down Dere | |

WILLIAM L. KING at the Piano

Recital Management, Arthur Judson

Steinway Hall



Mahalia Jackson-Gospel Singer

List of Patrons

Steering Committee for the Roland Hayes Concert

Miss LaVon Sperry, Chairman	Edgar J. Unthank, Secretary	Harry G. Hogan, Treasurer
William L. Briggs	Miss Helen Hilgemann	Mrs. Will Pelletier
Prof. Walter A. Hansen	Miss Edith Foster	Miss Margaret A. Kregan
Dr. Nathan Salton	Mr. Frank Brenner	Mrs. William Mossman
Mr. Holman Hamilton	Miss Elora E. Alsop	Mr. J. Ross McCullough
LIST OF PATRONS		
Mayor and Mrs. H. W. Baals	Mr. Charles M. Neizer	Mr. A. M. Strauss
Rev. and Mrs. Paul Krauss	Miss Florence Lang	Mrs. Walter Kent
Rabbi and Mrs. S. Markowitz	Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Coe	Mr. and Mrs. A. Campbell
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Mrs. J. E. Moring	Mrs. Josephine Foster	Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Books
Miss Gretchen Smith	Miss Lillian Foster	Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hall
Miss Edith Foster	Miss Marian Martin	Mr. Walter Gell
Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Croninger	Mr. and Mrs. A. J. McAndles	Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ganaway
Mrs. Vera Lane	Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Cross	Mr. and Mrs. Victor Miller
Miss Marie Chrisman	Mr. and Mrs. C. Schater	Mr. E. A. Barnes
Miss Marian Angband	Mr. Robert Y. Keegan	Dr. and Mrs. A. Duemling
Miss Katherine Welch	Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Hubbard	Mrs. W. H. Highou
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Miss Eva McKinzie	Miss Eliza Elliott	Mrs. Carrie Van Sweringen
Miss Mary Harrah	Miss Julia Emanuel	Mr. and Mrs. James Haberly
Miss Amy Barnes	Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Smith	Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Barrett
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Miss Helen Hilgemann	Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Micheaux	Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hogan
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Mr. and Mrs. J. Breunau	Miss Alma Tomblafe	Mr. and Mrs. Hal Rear
Mrs. Alice Foster McCulluch	Mr. and Mrs. W. Slauhaugh	Mr. and Mrs. Neil McKay
Miss Louis Fox	Mr. and Mrs. F. Gilmarau	Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Peters
Mrs. Charles Horton	Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Kegan	Miss Charlotte Eberbach
Mrs. Clara Zullars Bond	Mr. and Mrs. R. Pollack	Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Fox
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Garrett, Ind.	Mr. and Mrs. Wm. L. Briggs	Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mossman
Mrs. Sam Fisher	Mr. and Mrs. K. McDonald	Mr. and Mrs. W. Waterfield
Miss Margaret Smith and	Mr. and Mrs. Carl Snedlung	Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Lee
Mr. and Mrs. John Hoffman	Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Mossman	Mrs. Florence Short Sprunger
Mr. Fred Hunting	Dr. and Mrs. Karl Eberly	Judge and Mrs. C. McNabb
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Miss M. Ahlen Reed	Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Reher	Mr. and Mrs. Byron Hayes
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Fuller	Rev. and Mrs. F. K. Stafford	Mr. H. P. Rippe
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Noble	Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Carter	Mr. Carl Rippe
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hoffman	Mr. and Mrs. W. T. McKay	Mr. Charles Hartmann
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Mrs. Nelson Snider	Miss Barbara Beall	Mrs. Harriet McKinney,
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Miss Mary C. Smetzly	Dr. and Mrs. W. P. Yarnelle	Mrs. Tim Hartman, Bullion
Mr. Holman Hamilton	Mrs. Frank B. Mead, Sr.	Judge Harry W. Muller
	Mr. William Griffin	Judge & Mrs. G. H. Leonard
	Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Greer	Miss Hannah Connor
	Arry, Louis F. Crosby	Miss Ella Connor
	Dr. T. R. Burdies	Mr. Cliff H. Baigman
		Mrs. B. Crane
		Mrs. Jack Miller

NOTE: The Concert Committee is grateful to the above named patrons and others whose names do not appear on this list for their kindness in helping them to promote this Concert.

BENEFIT RECITAL

Wheatley Center
Building Fund.....



ROLAND HAYES
T en or

PERCIVAL PARHAM
Accompanist



TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1936
8:15 P. M.

SHRINE AUDITORIUM



Phillppe Duke Schuyler.

1911

1977

ULTRA ART CLUB

Presents It's

"1977 EBONY OCCASION"

**Saturday Evening
August 6, 1977
7:00 to 9:00 P.M.**

**Chamber of Commerce
Ballroom
Fort Wayne, Indiana**

PART ONE

KENNETH N. HAYES, Pianist

"Prelude", Op. 28, No. 4..... by Frederic Chopin
 "Moonlight Sonata", 1st Movement, Op. 27, No. 2
 by Ludwig van Beethoven
 "Feelings" music by Mooris Albert —
 arranged by Kenneth N. Hayes

PART TWO

ROBIN STITH, Soloist..... accompanied by Gordon Martin
 at the Piano
 "God Bless the Child"
 "Somewhere"

LINCOLN CHAPMAN, JR., Soloist A'Cappella
 Traditional selections
 "Oh! What A Beautiful City"
 "The Crucifixion"
 "My Soul's Been Anchored In The Lord"

ANGELA HAYDEN, Poetess
 Rendering her own compositions

ROBIN STITH
 "To Be Young Gifted and Black" by Nina Simone

PART THREE

KENNETH N. HAYES at the Organ
 "Ebb Tide" by Carl Sigman and Robert Maxwell
 "Evergreen" (Love Theme From "A Star Is Born").....
 by Barbara Streisand
 Gospel Selection
 "Close to You" by Burt Bacharach
 "If" by David Gates
 "Theme From Mahogany"
 by Michael Masser and Gerry Goffin
 (Reserve the right to make last minute changes in program selections.)

FINALE:

"America The Beautiful"The Cast

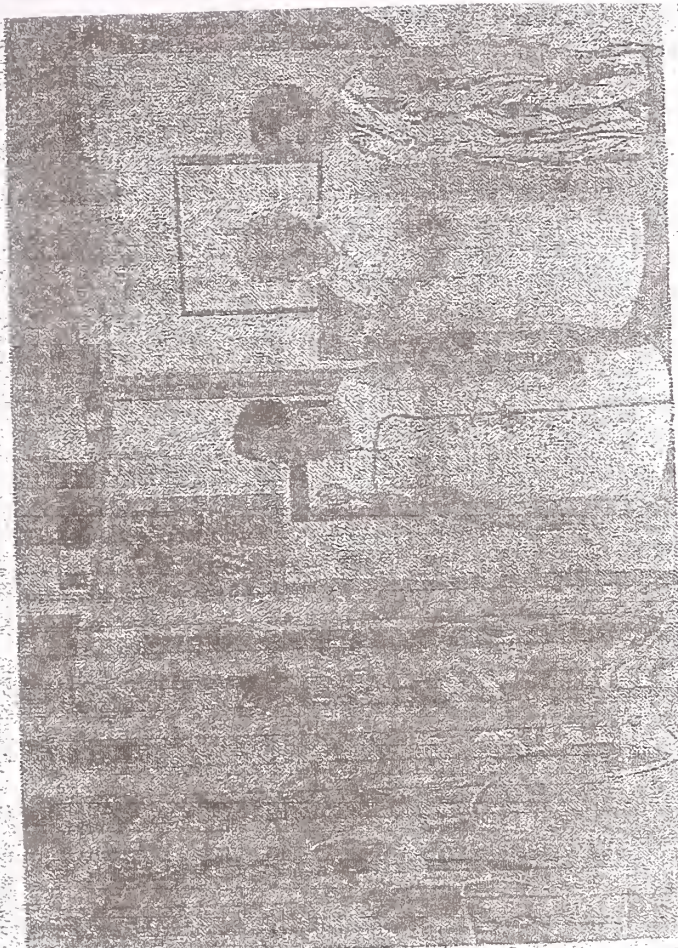
Audience please join in

*Organ furnished by courtesy
 of
 Fred Meyers Music Company*

May 1970



GAMES TOGETHER—Mrs. Golda H. Jones, center, chairman of the committee of Ultra Art Club, and Mrs. Marjorie D. Wickliffe, right, the two oldest Ultra Art Club members, enjoy themselves with children in Luther King Montessori School. The club recently contributed to the scholarship fund. With their teacher, Mrs. Hallie Martin, the girls are, la Ware, Anita Maxwell and Kathy Wilson. The Ultra Art Club is the best Negro women's organization in Indiana.



A CHILD'S MASTERPIECE—Mrs. James W. Brooks, Mrs. Glenn Reiff, Mrs. I Parish and Mrs. George Houston, from left, remark upon inner-city children work currently on display in the Fort Wayne Public Library. The exhibit of with a coffee and preview party Friday night with Mrs. William Newberg, inator of the "A Drop in the Bucket" program for inner-city youngsters, as of guests.

Children's Art Goes On Display To The Public

Mrs. William Newberg, Bloomington, who conceived and General Telephone Co. Al-Glenn Reiff, was held the idea of the "A Drop in the Bucket" program for inner-city children, members of 20 local churches baked cookies and the Public Transportation Corp. furnished transportation. Friday night's coffee, headed two weeks.

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The scholarship were funded through July 1.

1979 EBONY OCCASION

President, ULTRA ART CLUB Marjorie Graham
Mistress of Ceremony Wilhelmina Hayden

Chairperson, 1979 EBONY OCCASION Louise Nard
Committee Members: Violetta Henry
Wilhelmina Hayden
Virginia Sweat
Willena Price

Chairperson, PROGRAM COMMITTEE Miriam Blanks
Committee Members: Virginia Sweat
Josephine Williams
Juanita Ford
Rena Milton

Chairperson, PUBLICITY COMMITTEE ... Marjorie D. Wickliffe
Committee Members: Miriam Blanks
Virginia Sweat
Rena Milton

1979 EBONY FASHION FAIR COMMITTEE

Corrine Brooks, Chairperson
Doris Yarger, Co-Chairperson
Marjorie D. Wickliffe, Publicity Chairperson
Violetta Henry, Ticket Chairperson
Louise Nard, Ticket Co-Chairperson

Bea Epps
Wilhelmina Hayden
Juanita Ford
Josephine Williams
Willena Price
Paulette Moore

ULTRA ART SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Rena Milton, Chairperson
Marjorie D. Wickliffe
Corrine Brooks
Bea Epps
Wilhelmina Hayden

Associate Members:

Mrs. Florence Lee
Mrs. Ada Finley, Detroit, Michigan
(Club's First Secretary)

1911

ULTRA ART CLUB

Presents It's



THE YEAR OF THE CHILD

featuring

"THE STARS OF TOMORROW"

SATURDAY EVENING, AUGUST 25, 1979

7:30 - 9:30 P.M.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BALLROOM
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

1979



VIEW EXHIBIT — John F. Ross (left) Fort Wayne Public Library art consultant and Gene P. Porter, art consultant to Fort Wayne Community Schools, examine the public display of artistry from the Drop in the Bucket training program for talented students of the Inner City.

All Enjoyed 'Drop In Bucket'

Supportive workers for "Drop in the Bucket" enjoyed their work together as much as the talented Inner City children who received special training at the Fort Wayne Art Institute, reported Mrs. Edward Zamrin, coordinator. The public exhibit of their work will continue another week at the Public Library.

Drop in the Bucket was underwritten this year by Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., General Telephone of Indiana and Peter Eckrich & Sons, Inc. Luncheon milk and bussing was provided by Allen Dairy Co.

Women from 20 local churches were recruited by Mrs. Lloyd Parrish and Mrs. George Houston to provide

luncheon cookies at the Institute. Churches and workers involved were:

Mrs. Glenn Reiff, Mrs. John Wilks, Plymouth Congregational; Mrs. Carl Engstrom and Mrs. Marguerita Abbott, Trinity English Lutheran; Mrs. Gerald Carrington, Mrs. Edwin Lentz, Simpson Methodist; Mrs. Harold Beard, Trinity Methodist; Mrs. K. E. Wood, Mrs. Everett Bilger, Westfield Presbyterian; Mrs. Irving Snow, Mrs. Allen Kwatnez, B'nai B'rith Women; Mrs. Leonard Weinraub, Hadassah; Mrs. Oral Morris, Calvary Methodist;

Mrs. George Houston, Mrs. Delmus Wilcher, Mrs. Bernice Johnson, Shiloh Baptist; Mrs. Ann Kessens, Mrs. James Garry, Mrs. Jones Lewis, St. Pe-

ter's Catholic; Mrs. Worrell Myrick, Mrs. Marie Ricks, Turner Chapel A.M.E.; Mrs. Hugh Marshall, Mrs. Louis Sims, Union Baptist; Mrs. Mary Hayes, Mrs. Karl Brandt, Zion Lutheran; Mrs. Lowell Krاندell, Mrs. Roland Hiser, First Wayne Street United Methodist; Mrs. Nelson McClure, Mrs. Vincent Wells, West Creighton United Methodist; Mrs. Robert Jessie, First Presbyterian; Mrs. Beauford Williams, Mrs. James Brooks, Ultra Arts; Mrs. Myron Morris, Achduth Vesholom Temple Sisterhood; Mrs. Lloyd Parrish, Westminster Presbyterian.

Mrs. Glenn Reiff and Mrs. James Brooks had charge of the coffee for the preview showing of the art exhibit.

Community's Concern

Another Drop In Bucket For Inner City's Talent

Last year's Drop in the Bucket created more than a spatter of interest in the development of artistic talent among limited resource children of Fort Wayne's Inner City.

There will come another Drop in the Bucket June 15 when some 60 fifth and sixth graders of promise begin attending classes at the Fort Wayne Art Institute which will continue through July 1.

Ten of them will be the proud holders of scholarships developing out of last year's initial adventure into this area of talent development. They will be known as the "Alumni."

Drop in the Bucket is a cultural adventure that began in Detroit three years ago to open doors of opportunity to the Motor City's ghetto. Apparently, Fort Wayne is the only other metropolitan area to pursue it. The originator of the program was Mrs. William Newberg, wife of the president of the Chrysler Motor Corp. and hopefully she will be a guest here July 9 when the art work of the young people is previewed at the Fort Wayne Public Library.

Mrs. Edward Zamrin, 320 Millside Court, active in social welfare here for many years, introduced Drop in the Bucket in Fort Wayne and remains the coordinator this year.

Three companies are underwriting the art instruction this year: Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., which endowed the project alone last year; General Telephone Co. of Indiana and Peter Eckrich & Sons.

Bus transportation and milk for the summer school lunches will be provided by Allen Dairy Co. and the women of 21 local churches will provide cookies.

Fort Wayne Community Schools and parochial schools cooperated all during the school year in the selection of talented fifth and sixth graders and special arrangements for the course have been made by the Fort Wayne Art Institute

July 9 for sponsors of Drop in the Bucket and the news media. Last year's exhibit attracted wide attention.

Time was rather limited for organization of the first Drop in the Bucket program last year but the impact upon those participating was impressive. Preparations for the current program were begun last September, shortly after the opening of the school year giving teachers more time to observe the artistic inclinations of their pupils. Public and parochial schools were again contacted last March regarding selections for the summer training.

This year the single requirement of the program was even more emphasized — that only candidates be selected who could not otherwise afford the summer instruction, Mrs. Zamrin said. All of those about to begin study are representative of the Inner City — a segment of the community whose boundaries are economic rather than physical. Like other community programs, Drop in the Bucket brings its own particular facet of equal opportunity to people of restricted income.

Children selected for this year's summer course have been excitedly calling about the issuance of their bus passes. For some, a trip across town is an adventure in itself. Neighborhood bus routes will make connections with a shuttle bus at Murphy's

corner which will deliver the children to the Art Institute.

Those who have made the

second Fort Wayne Drop in the Bucket program possible include Henry F. Rood, chairman of the board, Lincoln Na-

Continued On Page 4F

PROJECT FINDS SUPPORT — Three firms have given their support to the second year of Drop in the Bucket, a project for talented of the Inner City. Pictured with Mrs. Edward Zamrin, coordinator, are (center) Clifford McCormick, president of General Telephone of Indiana; and Henry F. Rood, chairman of the board, Lincoln National Life Insurance Co. Richard P. Eckrich, chairman of the board of Peter Eckrich & Sons, Inc., is not pictured.

al acclaim. ⁴ A graduate of Northrop High School, Headley earned the Tony Award for Best Actress in 2000 for her title role in the Broadway adaptation of *Aida*. In January 2010, Headley won her first Grammy Award for Best Contemporary R & B Gospel Album for *Audience of One*. In addition to granting Ultra Art scholarships, the club organized programs that offered opportunities for the community's youth to showcase their talents. Held at the Chamber of Commerce Ballroom, the club's 60th anniversary program presented Ultra Arts recipient Henry Neal, a pianist, who played amongst other classics--- Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*, Francis Lai's *Theme from Love Story* and Mancini's *Romeo & Juliet*. ⁵ At their 66th anniversary celebration soloists Robin Stith and Lincoln Chapman III performed, as well as, poetess Angela Hayden. The event also featured former Ultra Art recipient Kenneth Hayes, an organist and pianist. In the 1970's, the club held several events they titled, '*Ebony Occasion: Stars of Tomorrow*' which featured promising community youth. For example, in 1979, among the youth performing, at that show, were 5-year-old 'song & dance man' Jason Odom, singer Kimberly Parker, who sung, *What a Difference A Day Makes*, Robert and Glenda Walker sung a duet, *The Greatest Love of All*. The dance ensemble team of Kim Key, Lori Kelso, and Patty Freeman, performed to *The Wiz's ---Ease on Down the Road*. Kenneth Hayes, on piano, teamed with soloist Donna Chambers, for several selections, to close out the event. ⁶ For the finale, the audience was asked to join in singing *Let There Be Peace On Earth*, a song whose lyric "*let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me*" is the club motto, which is recited, in unison, by members, at the end of club meetings. ⁷

In its early days, the Ultra Art club established an account it designated 'the S t o c k i n g Fund' that enabled them to send small amounts of aid to young women in college. To raise funds for their various enterprises they sold candy, held pancake breakfasts, White Elephant sales, auctions, etc. For several years, beginning in 1957, the club sponsored the Ebony Fashion Fair to raise funds for charities and scholarships. ⁸ The fashion shows proved to be very successful. The club and its co-sponsors donated the proceeds generated to educational youth projects. Some of the club's community fundraising partners have been the Lillian Jones Brown Culture Club, the Negro Business & Professional Women's Club, the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, the Upsilon Delta Phi Chapter of Alpha Chi Phi Omega Sorority & Fraternity, the N.A.A.C.P. Auxillary of Marion, Indiana, and the Wilson Lodge #12 FAMPH of Marion, Indiana. ⁹ In 1985, the club, in memory of its founder, established the Carrie Adeline Rhodes Scholarship to be awarded to a graduating high school senior enrolled in an institution of higher learning. ¹⁰ It was presented, for the first time, at that year's Ebony Fashion Fair Show.

During a lecture on the Ultra Art club, on February 6, 2011, at the History Center, Doris Yerger shared her personal experiences and reminisces about the organization. Exulting in remembrances of the Ebony Fashion Fairs, which annually came to Fort Wayne, Yerger stated the shows caused a rippling excitement throughout the community, and noted with obvious delight that the events "raised a great deal of money" that enabled the club to meet its aims and purposes. She warmly told of attending, in the 1970's, her first club meetings which were filled with genteel ambiance. Members of the same church, Yerger fondly recalled from her youth, the club's founder, Mrs. Rhodes, as being exquisite in



ULTRA ART CLUB

of Fort Wayne, Indiana

September 5, 1986

His Honor the Mayor
City Hall
Fort Wayne, Indiana

My dear Mayor Moses:

The Ultra Art Club is celebrating it's Diamond Jubilee on Sunday, October 5, 1986, at Lester's Party Room on the Bluffton Road from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

We would be honored to have you present and to join in with our members and friends on this festive occasion. Your participation on a short program (and a proclamation, if in order) would be a real tribute to these women who have devoted much to the civic, social welfare, educational and cultural enrichment of this community over the past 75 years.

Will look forward to a favorable reply and to seeing you there.

Cordially yours,

Miriam Blanks, Chairperson
Program Committee
75th Anniversary

P.S. We will prepare a printed program for the affair. Please advise as soon as possible as to your availability for the Jubilee.

Enclosed is a little briefing about Ultra Art Club.

Celebrating
75 Years of Service



The Civics Inc. members include (1st row, l-r), Mrs. Dorothy Grimes, Mrs. Harriet Inskeep, Mrs. Evelyn Williams, founder and chairwoman, Mrs. Delores Thomas, Mrs. Edna Smith, Alice Ridderhenn; (2nd row, l-r), Mrs. Rikki Goldstein, Mrs. Dorothy Towles, Mrs. Barbara Hawley, Mrs. Mary Barkdale, Mrs. Mary Young, Mrs. Bernice W. Bradley.

Ft. Wayne Civics Group Holds Annual Charity Ball

The Civics Inc., a group of civic-minded professional women, recently held its 11th annual Black and White Charity Ball in Ft. Wayne, Ind.

The affair, held at the Grand

Wayne Center, attracted more than 900 guests, including politicians and community-minded people from all walks of life. Proceeds from the gala will go towards charity, according to Mrs. Evelyn Williams, group founder and chairperson.

Ft. Wayne Mayor Winfield Moore guest of honor. Mrs. Margaret Winkler at affair, while Mr. and Mrs. Raymond and Evelyn Williams greet Lucinda Love, one of the hostesses of the affair.



**Source: Jet magazine
May 27, 1985**



PLAN EVENT — The women in the photograph above, left to right, Mrs. Samuel P. Jones, Mrs. Carlos Milton, Mrs. Robert F. Blanks, Mrs. Willard Henry, Mrs. J. Howard Ford, Mrs. Emil W. Brown, Mrs. Vernon P. Wickliffe and Mrs. William Sweat, are responsible for the Ultra Art Club of Fort Wayne's bringing the Ebony Fashion Fair to our city. Always a fabulous show, you see but four of the lovely models, at left, who will show off couture fashions in the Sept. 14 event.

Ebony Fashion Fair Slated Sept. 14

The Ultra Art Club of Fort Wayne will present the Ebony Fashion Fair at the Scottish Rite's Auditorium on Saturday evening, Sept. 14.

Mrs. James W. Brooks, general chairman, announced that net proceeds realized from the project will be used for scholarships in the fields of art, music and dramatics, and for assistance in other cultural and educational community projects.

Ebony Fashion Fair began in 1958 as a local series of fall showings of high fashions from world famous designers. From 30 cities, the annual shows have extended to 74 cities from coast to coast. Mrs. Vernon P. Wickliffe, publicity chairman, stated that arrangements are now under way to fill the Scottish Rite's Auditorium for the Fort Wayne show.

The Ultra Art Club has sponsored cultural, edu-

cational and social programs from scholarships, Mental Health projects, Christmas Bureau, Girl Scouts, and other charitable purposes in Fort Wayne for 57 years.

Mrs. Beauford Williams is president of the organization. The committees for this year's Ebony Fashion Fair are: co-chairman, Mrs. Samuel P. Jones; publicity: co-chairman, Mrs. Carlos Milton; Mrs. James Graham, Sr., and Mrs. Willard Henry. Ticket committee: Mrs. Emil W. Brown, chairman; Mrs. Robert Blanks, co-chairman; and Mrs. Edward Martin. Housing and reception committee: Mrs. J. Howard Ford, chairman; Mrs. William Sweat, co-chairman; Mrs. Herschell Babb and Mrs. Florence Lee.

Tickets for the Fashion Fair may be obtained from any member of the organization.



GERRI MAJOR'S

SOCIETY

FOR THE RECORD Salute to Marjorie (Mrs. Vernon) Wickliffe, new member of Mayor Harold S. Zeis' Commission of Human Relations in Fort Wayne, Ind. EBONY Fashion Fair devotees know her as publicity chairman of Fort Wayne's whopping success at the Shrine Temple . . . When Cerella A. Jones Lucas of San Francisco received her medical degree from Nashville's Meharry Medical College (June '65) she completed a foursome of doctors in her family. She is married to San Francisco dentist Dr. Henry Lucas Jr. Her sister, Marquenta Jones Neblett (see EBONY's May issue—Style Setters of 1966), is a practicing physician and is married to San Francisco gynecologist Dr. Lawrence Neblett. The Jones sisters are natives of Nashville, Tenn.; each graduated from Fisk U. and Meharry Medical College; each is the mother of three children.

Source: Jet Magazine June 2, 1966

2W FORT WAYNE JOURNAL-GAZETTE Sunday, Sept. 23, 1963

Let's Talk About

By ROBERTA ROBSON
Woman's Editor

If committee meetings have had trouble getting underway this past week it has been because of the weather . . . Many a gal has lagged on the way just to spend a little more time outdoors in the glorious fall day . . . But weather or not, it has been go . . . go . . . go . . .

The Ebony Fashion Flair at the Scottish Rite Auditorium Wednesday night was one of the most spectacular and beautiful shows this town has seen in many a moon . . . It was a most delightful evening . . . The fashions were chosen from the top designers in Italy, Europe and more than a goodly share from our own American Couture field . . . They were distinctive . . . Chosen and coordinated with unusual flair . . . The commentary was light, airy and well delivered and the accompanying music provided a real "fashion background" . . . The models were all attractive American girls who obviously knew their job . . . The Ultra Art Club members who sponsored the fashion review are to be complimented for bringing such an unusual and high class evening of entertainment to the city . . . The evening's affair was capably handled with charm and ease . . .

Ebony Fashion Fair Set

The 1968 showing of Ebony Fashion Fair, sponsored by the Ultra Art Club to raise funds for scholarships in the fields of art, music and drama and to assist other cultural and educational community projects, will be held Saturday night in the Scottish Rite Auditorium.

The Ebony Fashion Fair began in 1958 as a local series of fall showings of high fashions from world famous designers. Proceeds from the show have helped many talented teens including a Fort Wayne miss, Delores Gatson, who has received the scholarship in music for the past three years which pays for her lessons at Blank's Music Studio.

Last year when Delores was a senior at Central High School she was recommended by her typing teacher as a possible trainee for a key punch position at Lincoln National Life Insurance Co. She was required to take the normal test for application and was one of six selected.

Music rates number one on Delores' interest list. "Three of my sisters also play the piano," Delores stated. "It's a race to see who gets the piano first," she laughed.

Classical music is her favorite but she also plays the clarinet and is active in the Youth Choir at Pilgrim Baptist Church.

Delores, typical of all girls her age, enjoys going to parties and likes to sew, especially sports clothes. Besides continuing with her piano, Delores would like to study to be an x-ray technician. She is the second eldest of 12 children and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lee Gatson, 908 S. Hanna St.

Fashions for the fund raising show this year are reminiscent of the 30s as well as the late 40s, the committee announced. The 30s have influenced the use of Donegal tweeds, big fur collars and cuffs. Ruffles are in as well as the cap-cloche type of hats, berets and turbans. A new theme also is a daytime coat over trousers and skirts. The cape look is popular again and the pants are longer and wider than ever.

Another innovation, to be seen in the show, is the put-together idea where skirts, blouses and jackets of different colors can be put together to suit a woman's fancy. The unorthodox combination of mixing pants under dresses, mixing textures like velvet and satin with tweeds or leather, will be a question of the lady's choice—to suit every mood, shape and way of life. Everything that makes sense to a woman, is fun and looks right is the stimulation for fall '68. A selection of multiple looks that are individually right for the



Miss Delores Gatson

occasion, moment and time of day add up to the theme for the show, "Fashion Freedom '68".

Committees for the Ebony Fashion Fair are Mrs. Samuel P. Jones, chairman; Mrs. Carlos Milton, Mrs. James Graham Sr. and Mrs. Willard Henry, publicity; Mrs. Emil Brown, chairman of tickets, assisted by Mrs. Robert Blanks and Mrs. Edward Martin; Mrs. J. Howard Ford, chairman of housing and reception, assisted by Mrs. J. Howard Ford, Mrs. William Sweat, Mrs. Florence Lee and Mrs. Herschel Babb.

Tickets for the Fashion Fair may be obtained from any member of the organization.

-1969-

Scholarship Committee Report

Feb. 12, 1964

Rules for obtaining Applicants for a Ultra Art Club Scholarship:

Applicants referred by school instructors of music, art, and dramatics,

Applicants will be from the 4th through 8th grades students and high school students.

Elimination and final decisions will be determined upon

- (1) The recommendation of instructors: (School and Music Instructors)
 - (a) Talent - be first consideration
 - (b) Financial need (Family ability to pay for further instruction)
- (2) Grade School students will be given first consideration and then High School students:
- (3) ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Once an applicant becomes a recipient of an Ultra Art Scholarship- it can be renewed if the above requirements are met and especially if he is deemed to of exceptional talent.

Respectfully submitted,

Golda Jones, Chairman

P.S: Applications will be made available to Instructors, who will recommend students to apply.

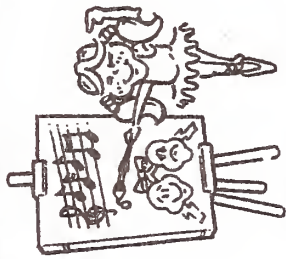
manner and elegance.

While the Ultra Art club's primary focus is to promote the arts, particularly for children, their concern has included the educational welfare of youth. The club has been active in many community projects, working in tandem with the Y.W.C.A., the Red Cross, March of Dimes, and other local civic organizations. In the 1970's, the club partnered with several organizations to bring to Fort Wayne the 'Drop in the Bucket' program, which was introduced, to the city, by Mrs. Edward Zamrin, a well-known local social welfare activist.¹¹ The program, founded in Detroit, by Mrs. William Newberg, (the wife of then president of the Chrysler Motor Corp.) was touted as a "cultural adventure to open doors of opportunities to develop the talents of children living in the Motor City's inner city".¹²

In Fort Wayne, the 'Drop in the Bucket' program was underwritten its second year by Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., General Telephone Co. of Indiana and Peter Eckrich & Sons.¹³ Fort Wayne Community Schools and area parochial schools provided vital assistance in the success of the endeavor. Talented fifth and sixth graders, selected by teachers, took summer art classes at the Fort Wayne Art Institute. Newspaper accounts of the day reported the enthusiasm of the students and their outwardly excited glee to be participating in the program.¹⁴ It was also reported that the Ultra Art Club planned to sponsor "two children for special winter arts training."¹⁵ Another newspaper account reported the story of the selection of a Washington School, 13-year-old student, who could neither read nor write, yet possessed a marked artistic talent. Zamrin was quoted in the article as saying children benefited in many ways from program involvement.¹⁶ It was felt, the 'Drop in the Bucket' program while having the potential to develop inherent skills, also motivated a student to progress in other studies as well. Following the conclusion of the art classes, which ran from June 15 through July 1, the children's art work was exhibited, for two weeks, at the Fort Wayne Public Library.¹⁷ The evening, prior to the exhibit going on public display, guest of honor, Mrs. Newberg and other invited guest attended a special preview showing of the art work.¹⁸

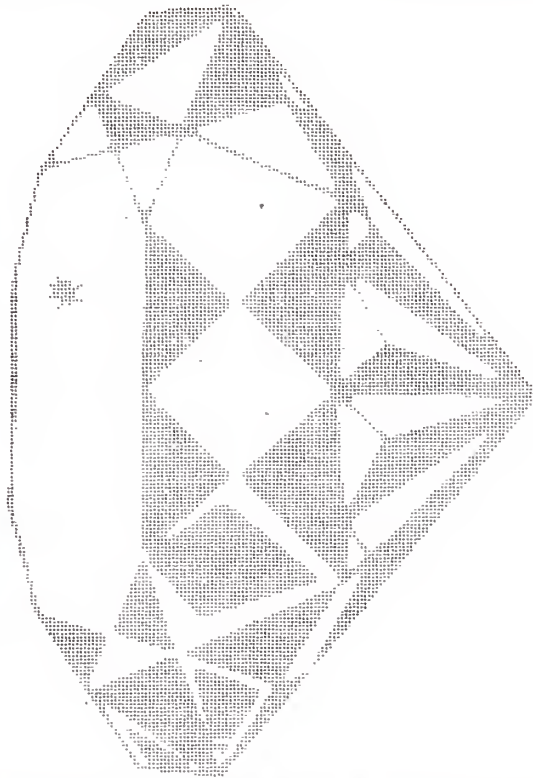
The club's fundraising activities have benefited several local community charities and organizations---cultural, educational, other scholarship funds, and civic projects. Among the organizations they have contributed to: the Fort Wayne Fine Arts Foundation, The Embassy Theatre, the Y.M.C.A., the St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, the Fort Wayne Urban League's Guild's Cotillion & Beautillion Career Counseling Project, the McCulloch [nee Jennings] Center, the Negro College Fund, the Martin Luther King Montessori School, the Fort Wayne Ministerial Alliance, the Old Fort Wayne, the Frieda McKnight Scholarship Fund (national), the Girl Scouts, and Miss Virginia's Mission House.¹⁹

At its half-century mark, in 1961, the club held its Golden Anniversary, at the Turner Chapel A.M.E. Church, where the featured speaker was Mrs. Warren Douglas of Chicago. Douglas, who had distinguished herself nationally through her work with youth, was the first executive secretary of Fort Wayne's Phyllis Wheatley Center. The center, in 1922, became the Fort Wayne Urban League.²⁰ Citing, in her talk, that adult rejection [was] the



ULTRA ART CLUB

Diamond Jubilee



October 5, 1986

LESTER'S PARTY ROOM

1502 Bluffton Road
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Celebrating 75 Years of Service

Ultra Art Club

50th

Anniversary

1911-1961



FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

TURNER CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH

OCTOBER 29, 1961

Bulletin

25th Festival of Gingerbread is one for the record books

We were expecting a great year for the Silver Anniversary of the Festival of Gingerbread. But who would have guessed that this year's event would be a record breaker in so many ways!

We raised an all time high of \$81,020 that will go toward programs of the History Center.

Corporate sponsorships and private donations were \$37,808. Lutheran Health Network became our first-ever Title Sponsor. They joined 32 other corporate sponsors who

committed their dollars toward making the event a success.

Admissions revenues reached an all-time high of \$28,293.

Visitation also set a record with 11,308 guests visiting not only the Festival of Gingerbread but the other exhibits and displays in the museum.

And on AEP's free night, 1,058 persons toured the Festival and the museum, making this the highest visitation on record for a single Festival event.

All of this could not have been accomplished without the hard work and efforts of our staff, volunteers and the community.

The area media played a significant role in calling attention to the Festival and we even had coverage from Martha Stewart Radio and a Chicago area blogger.



The recently restored Old City Courtroom was a fantastic backdrop to the Festival and we received a number of compliments on the room as well as inquiries for rentals.

We built new partnerships, gained new supporters, and carried on a tradition of sponsoring one of the Fort Wayne area's favorite holiday traditions.

Please know that we are grateful for the support shown by so many who recognize the value of our mission and the role we play in the area toward educating young and old alike.

Inside



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Admission

Adults \$5
 Seniors (58+) \$3
 Children 5 and under free
 Society members free



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HISTORY CENTER
ALLEN COUNTY - FORT WAYNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE GEORGE R. MATHE LECTURE SERIES 2010-2011

TOP: Mr. Ron Mudd, a direct descendant of Adeline Rhodes, Mrs. Doris Yerger, (Ultra Art Club), Mrs. Lola Bates, (African/ African American Historical Museum), and Mrs. Marsha Smiley, (Zonta International Women's Service Club).

BOTTOM: Marsha Smiley, Dr. Ruby Cain (Delta Sigma Theta, It Is Well With My Soul), and Mrs. Linda Durril (Fort Wayne Chapter of Links) browse booths set up by local black women's clubs following Mrs. Yerger's lecture at the History Center.

*Made possible with support from
The Dunsire Family Foundation*



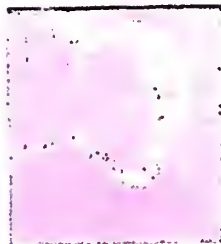
Presented at
The History Center
302 East Berry Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

Lectures begin at 2:00 PM on the dates indicated

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
20th Century African American Women's Clubs

DORIS YERGER

**20th Century African-
American Women's
Clubs**



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2011

Throughout much of the 20th century, associations and clubs comprised of African-American women played a singular role in providing its members the opportunities to share their ideas, better themselves, and give back to the community. This powerful heritage is told through the history of the Ultra Art Club, one such group that celebrates 100 years of community involvement in 2011. One of the few intellectual outlets for local African-American women of its day, the Ultra Art Club was originally formed as a way to teach its members appreciation for the arts, etiquette, fashion, and entertaining, but more importantly how to serve their community. Over the generations, the Ultra Art Club evolved into a vibrant force for promoting arts and culture, and compelling academic advancement. For many years the Ultra Art Club has maintained a vibrant youth advancement program, offering assistance for education in the fine arts to elementary students and college scholarships to high school students.

Originally from Hope, Arkansas Doris moved to Fort Wayne in 1947, retiring from General Electric after 25 years. She continued her education at the USF earning a degree in Social Work. Doris served as a volunteer for Lutheran Social Services, the Women's Bureau, and other local agencies. She has two children, one foster child, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. She has been a member of the Ultra Art Club for over 35 years.



**ULTRA ART CLUB
(1911-2011)**



(photos courtesy Linda Durnil)

One Woman's inspiration



By JOHN STEARNS of The News-Sentinel

hat), Pallas Dyer, Elise LaRue, Susie Buggs and Jessica Anderson.

► The Elma E. Alsup Club helped colored girls dream into strong

ride the street cars all over town. "We were young," she says. "You don't miss what you never had."

They missed the Girl Reserves, though, after they graduated from high school and were too old to participate.

good food and good works — although their energy level isn't what it used to be, they admit.

"We still donate to certain causes, like the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission and the Christmas Bureau," says Buggs, the president. "What we do what we want to."



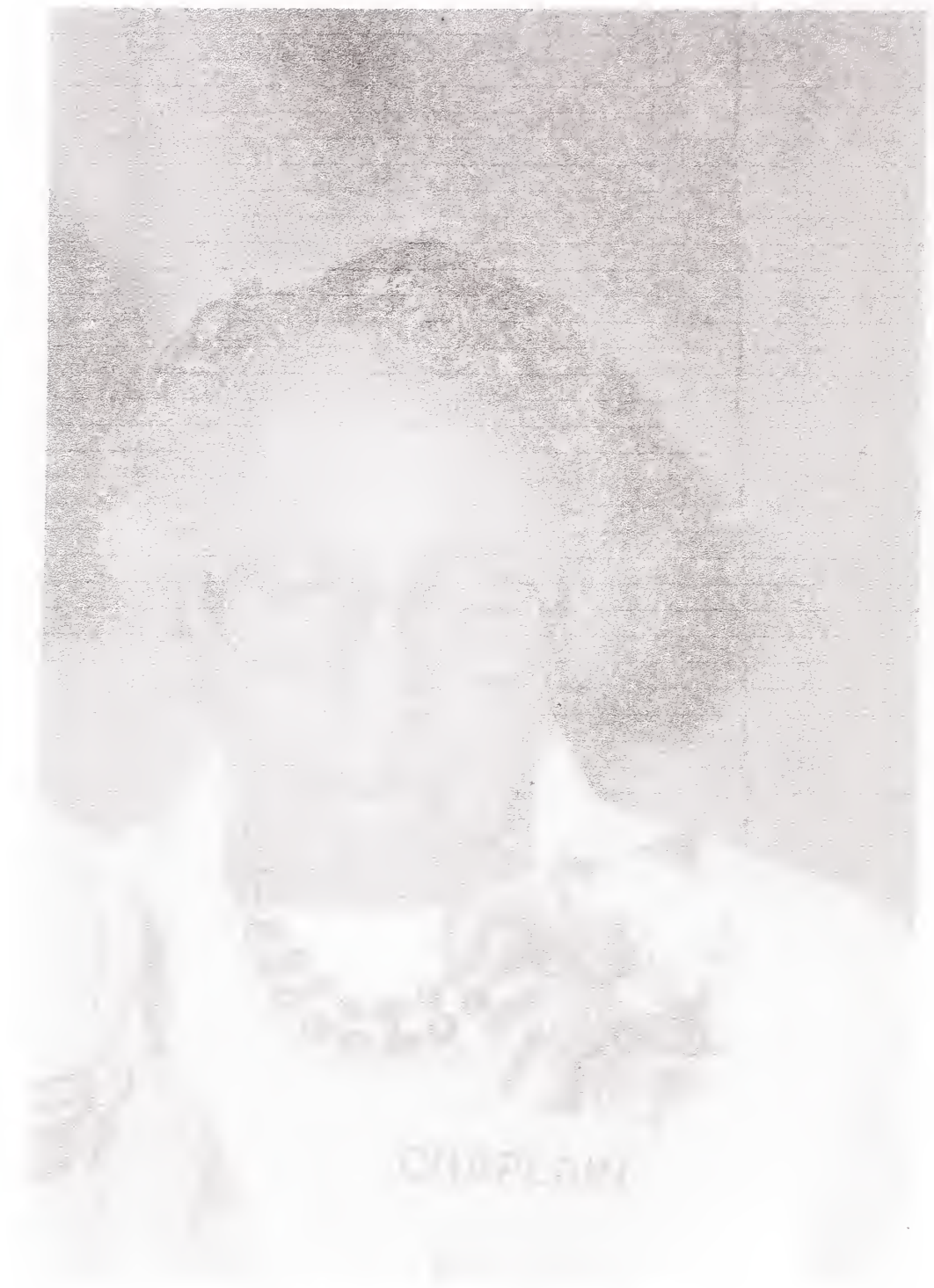
ELMA E. ALSUP
(1895-1985)

frequent cause of youth delinquency, she urged the community to embrace its young by taking a genuine interest in them and showing them love. ²¹ The club celebrated its 'Diamond Jubilee', in 1986, at Lester's Party Room. In attendance, on that special occasion, was the club's lone surviving charter member ninety-nine-year old Ada Marie Finley of Detroit, Michigan. She served as the club's first secretary; an Ultra Art scholarship was given in Finley's honor at the event. Also, present at the event was 90-year-old Marjorie Wickliffe, who had joined the club in 1917. In honor of her many years of service to the Fort Wayne community, the local chapter of the N.A.A.C.P., annually bestows, in her name, a community service award. At the 'Jubilee', Mrs. Josephine Gaines Williams, a member of the club, since 1958, paid tribute to the club's founder and shared significant highlights of the club's accomplishments, over its seventy-five year history. To open her remarks, Williams recited the poem, *The Bridge Builder*, by William A. Dromgoole. This poem recounts the story of an elderly builder who coming to the twilight of his life, selflessly turns back to build a bridge for a youth, whose following in his path and may face pitfalls that might prove insurmountable for him. Paralleling the sentiments expressed in this poem with those of the club's founder, Williams stated Adeline Rhodes, "must have had this [poem] in mind when she called together a small group of married ladies for a tea on a Wednesday afternoon in October of 1911 [and organized] the Ultra Art & Literacy Club." ²²

THE CENTER OF FORT WAYNE'S FEDERATED WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

Several colored women's clubs sprung up in the Summit City, after the Ultra Art Club formed, and the leading initiator of these federated clubs was Elma E. Alsup. Alsup was an extraordinary club woman. She is legendary and the legacy she left in the Fort Wayne community defines the 'gold standard' of service to one's community in as much as she arose magnanimously--both professionally and socially--- to uplift Fort Wayne society. Born in 1895, to John and Ella Alsup, in Humbolt, Tennessee, Elma and her family soon moved to Lafayette, Indiana. By 1899, the family had settled in Fort Wayne, where Alsup spent the rest of her life. After matriculating through the local public school system, and attending Central High School, Elma received her social work training at a number of national institutes. She worked most of her adult life in the field of social work. For several years, during her employment as a Girl's Work Secretary at the Phyllis Wheatley Center, she led the Girls Work Reserves Organization. The Girl Reserves were similar in concept to Girl Scouts. Alsup wielded great influence across racial lines within the community. For instance, at a time of deep racial isolation, when segregation prevailed in the country, her girls group attended the YWCA's Camp Yarnelle. During an interview, in 1972, with News-Sentinel columnist Nancy Romero, Miss Alsup declared proudly, "That was in the days when no other Y.W.C.A. camp in the state allowed [colored] girls to go to their camps. But we did it here, yes sir!"

Alsup began her work with youth in the 1920's. Besides her work with girls, she mentored and counseled boys as well. Known affectionately as 'Aunt Emmy', 'Miss Emma', or 'Miss Alsup', she was always willing to share whatever she had. An avid lover of sports, she came into contact with as many boys as girls. Alsup faithfully attended the games in which her young friends participated. She used her own vehicle and funds to transport



Thirman & Margaret Howell

Howell Hotel Owners



The family of Elma Alsup of Fort Wayne, Indiana

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CLUB MANHATTAN

(Westfield)

tions to say: "Look, I can't afford to throw much stuff I can afford to throw things away." Then we become wilfully vigilant in readiness to destroy any one's personality who threatens our prestige. Justice indeed wears a blindfold when it destroys trust and confidence. Society can only exist as long as justice is tempered by the quality of mercy in our human relations—one to another.

It has been said in passing that: "If the best person on earth had his faults written on his forehead, he would pull his hat down over his eyes." We all seek mercy; we all need mercy. It is best to remember this prayer in our daily human relations: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us." We are truly civilized human beings when we can temper our actions with the quality of mercy.

Negroes, who end their boycott anyway."

The boycott bus company operations as of financial difficulties out by the leaders, Negroes 70 per cent of the The boycott with the arrest Florida A & M

Support Our Support You. M YOUR BUSIN FOR IT.

She a to e

at least c

Elma E. Alsup Club To Have Annual Chicken Dinner

The Elma E. Alsup Club will have their Annual Chicken Dinner, Saturday, July 21st from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the C.M.E. Church, 602 E Wayne St. Chairman of Ways and Means, Mrs. William Sweat; her committee, Mrs. Albert Jennings and Mrs. Ulysses Walker. Mrs. James Brooks, president.



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CLUB SPONSORS HAT BAZAR — The Lillian Jones Brown Culture Club will sponsor a hat style show Saturday at the East Wayne St. Community Center, 801 East Wayne St., from 7 to 9 p.m. All proceeds from the affair will be given to the Franke Park Zoo. Pictured planning the event are, left to right, Mrs. James H. Davis, president; Mrs. W. M. Pearson, Mrs. Beauford Williams and Mrs. Lucille Mosley, entertainment chairman.

VOL. 8 NO. 19

May 12-18, 1976



FIRST \$500 NAACP MEMBERSHIP — The Lillian Jones Brown Culture Club is the first organization in Fort Wayne to take out a \$500 paid-up Life Membership in the NAACP and here display a plaque in their honor. They will be recognized in the NAACP Hall of Fame in New York. From left to right are Mrs. Louise Nard, secretary; Mrs. May Burks, president; Miss Elma Alsup, Advisor; Mrs. Lucille Mosley, publicity chairperson; and Mrs. Helen Babb, treasurer.

Myrick to be honored by Order of Eastern Star

FORT WAYNE—Members of the Rhoda K. Jones Chapter No. 54 Order of the Eastern Star PHA/JOI are scheduled to host a special appreciation banquet to honor Sister Margaret L. Myrick, 4 p.m., Aug. 15 at the Craftsmen's Auditorium 2329 Winter St.

Sister Myrick, the organization's oldest and longest chartered member, has been a member of the Rhoda K. Jones Chapter No. 54 OES for 60 years and member of the Daughters of Isis for more than 50 years.

On May 22, 1943, several Master Masons from the local lodge and their wives met at the Masonic Hall on South Lafayette Street. After opening with a prayer, the brothers took steps to seek dispensation to officially petition for what would be the second chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, the women's auxiliary of the Masonic order. In attendance were Brother Warrel Myrick, Brother Gus Starks, Brother O.A. Presley, Brother Eddie Jones, Brother Edward Lyman, Brother Ed Martin, Brother James Rindy, Sister Viola Chilrey, Sister Bertha Presley, Sister Francis Jones, Sister Rose Lyman, Sister Essie Martin.



Sister Louise Daniels, Sister Fannie Sharp, Sister Mary A. Caldwell—and Sister Margaret L. Myrick. The brothers and sisters each contributed \$2.50 which was sent to the Grand Chapter, June 1, 1943 as part of the petition.

The petition was approved and the following year, the sisters were investigated for membership. Their charter was received in June 1945 and the women were initiated and ready for the Grand Chapter. Sister Myrick, was the first person to sign the charter for Rhoda K. Jones No. 54. From the beginning, she has served with distinction, not only as a member, but in various leadership roles including Worthy Matron for seven years, District Grand Matron for five years, Past Grand Ruth and on the Past Grand Parliamentary Committee for five years. The Grand Chapter was held in Fort Wayne during her term as Worthy Matron.

Tickets are \$10. The organization also is producing a souvenir journal to commemorate the occasion. For tickets or more information about how to place a tribute in the booklet, call Sister Evelyn Williams, Ways and Means chairperson, at (260) 447-2118.

members of the boys basketball team to games both in and out of state. The boys used to cheerily refer to the way she drove them across county roads as the 'Alsup weave'. Often there were boys who could not afford the expense of participating in certain sports; if she learned that this was the obstacle, she anonymously paid the fee. As a member of American Legion Auxiliary Post #148, she organized volleyball and basketball teams for both youth and adults, providing transportation to games from one end of the state to the other and in other states as well. To many a youth she was a social worker, administrator, advisor, coach, counselor and especially a friend.

During the Depression, a group of 30--40 young girls joined the Girl Reserves. Their fieldtrips, excursions, and movements about the city were limited due to the customs and societal constraints prevalent at that time. Lacking cultural and social outlets, having graduated from high school and outgrown the Girl Reserves, Alsup, in 1935, helped the young women organize a social club based on service and self-improvement. Initially, called the *Toujours Fidele Girls Club*, the club went through several name changes, before settling on the *Elma E. Alsup Club*, in honor of their beloved mentor. The club planned concerts, forums and educational teas following the undeviating rules of Miss Alsup. The group donated to several local charities. In 1992, an article in *The Fort Wayne News-Sentinel* reported that the *Elma E. Alsup Club* had existed for nearly 57 years with a current membership of 12---six original members with another six members, who had joined later. Acknowledging that their energy levels were diminishing club members stated their meetings centered on socializing, eating good food and performing good works.

A great organizer, Alsup was instrumental in the formation of several other women's clubs, among them: the local Federated Women's Club, the Lillian Jones Brown Club, Jennie Conner Civic Club, Beaux Margaret Howell Federated Club, Clarence White Music Club, Arts , Music Club, and the Union Baptist Floral Club. Alsup was very actively involved in many areas of community life as well. A member of the World War II Mother's Club, she served as president of the American Legion Auxiliary #148, chaired the state committee of American Legion Auxiliaries, and was secretary of the Past President's Parley. She was also affiliated with the N.A.A.C.P., the Allen County Social Welfare Association, the Indiana Federation of Colored Women's Club, serving as secretary, the Fort Wayne Interracial Commission, W.C.T.U., and the Council of Church Women. She held a long association with the Y.W.C.A., serving on its board of directors for years; she was also on the Indiana State Board of Negro Musicians.

Just as visionary and demonstrative of ways she paved social progress and advancement was her work for the Wheatley Center where she sought African American economic empowerment. Founded initially by the National Recreation Association, the Wheatley Center, at the heart of the black community, since 1920, had served as its recreational and social center. Two years later, the center came under the auspices of the Urban League. After linking with the National Urban League, Center staff members shifted their focus to economic and social problems. In 1925, the center affiliated with the Fort Wayne Community Chest, forerunner to the United Way.

Ultra Art Club hosts 39th Annual Ebony Fashion Fair Sept. 14

by Liz Murphy

Plans are under way for the 39th Annual Ebony Fashion Fair to be held on Saturday, Sept. 14, at 8 p.m.. The event will take place at the Grand Wayne Center, 120 W. Jefferson Blvd., in Fort Wayne. This is the 29th year that the Fort Wayne Ultra Art Club has sponsored the Fair.

Club President Mariah Blanks presided over the recent champagne brunch to begin organizational preparations for this year's extravaganza. Attending this year's brunch were the cosponsors which included Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Jr. Lillian Jones Brown Culture Club, Upsilon Delta Phi Chapter of Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, Negro Business & Professional Women's Club and the Marion NAACP.

The theme for the 1996-1997 Fair will be Great Fashion Mix, which promises to be bigger and better than before.

Auxiliary.

The theme for the 1996-1997 Fair will be Great Fashion Mix, which promises to be bigger and better



At the Orientation Brunch held June 1, the organizational process for this years Ebony Fashion Fair began. The event was attended by: Left to right, seated — Helen Pickett, NBPW; Mariah Blanks, president, Ultra Art Club; Joan L. Baines, Jr. Lillian Jones Brown Culture Club; Thelma Russell, NBPW. Standing — Edna Metoyer, Zeta Phi Beta; Mary Simpson, Zeta Phi Beta; Joyce Graham-Coats, general chairperson-Ebony Fashion Fair; Anna P. Renfro and Maizie W. Thomas, Upsilon Delta Phi Chapter of Alpha Chi Omega Sorority & Fraternity.



CONVENTION LEADERS—The 53rd annual state convention of the Indiana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs is being held at the Pilgrim Baptist Church. Pictured, from left to right, are Mrs. Henry Johnson, Gary, president of the Indiana Federation, Mrs. William L. Briggs, president of the Fort Wayne Federation, and Mrs. Irene McCoy Gaine, Chicago, president of the National Association of Colored Women. The convention ends today. (New-Sentinel Photo)



Local planners and directors of the convention shown, left to right are: Mrs. Perry G. Strum, Program chairman; Mrs. T. R. Borders, chairman of souvenir and ads committee; Mrs. Therman Howell, general co-chairman; Mrs. Lucille Mosley, president; Lillian Jones Brown, Culture Club; and Mrs. Donald Phillips, supervisor of the local N.A.C. Girls.

OBSERVER

NEWSPAPER—

Fort Wayne, IN.

2, 1956

Price 10 Cents

Mrs. Juanita Brown Elected President, Federated Women

The Indiana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and the National Association of Colored Girls held their 53rd. annual session, July 7 to 10th with headquarters at the Pilgrim Baptist Church, 1331 Gay St. The Rev. John Dixie is pastor.

The NAC Girls held their meeting Saturday and was closed that evening by an Oratorical and talent program at the Pilgrim Church. The winners of the oratorical contest were: first place, Miss Dorothy Taylor, Gary, who will be sent to Miami, Fla. by the State Adult body. Second place winner, Miss Beverly Stanton, Ft. Wayne and third place winner, Miss Brenda Rouse, South Bend, Indiana. The Young people's Choir of Turner Chapel presented the music for the event, Mrs. Naomi Phillips, director and Supervisor of local NAC Girls. Miss Beverly Stanton, is president of NAC Girls.

Sunday, 3:15 P. M. at Turner Chapel AME Church, 801 East Wayne St. Mrs. Celestha B. Johnson, Gary, state president and Mrs. Gertrude Williams, state supervisor of NAC Girls, and Miss Jane E. Smith, National president of NAC Girls gave their annual report. Mrs. Lena Harris, past president of state, was honored. Sunday evening at Turner Chapel in a Pageant entitled "This Is Your Life." Mrs. Blanch Cross, second vice president and dean of Districts had supervision of the very colorful Pageant. The National president of the Association, Mrs. Irene McCoy Gaines crowned Mrs. Lena Harris Queen of the Convention.

Monday morning, 8 o'clock—Fellowship Breakfast in the church dining room, followed by the Memorial Services in the church auditorium. At 9 o'clock, the State president, Mrs. Celestha B. Johnson called for a partial report of the Credential Committee—with this information, she declared the 53rd session of the Indiana State Convention of Colored Women officially opened. Minutes of the 1955 session held in Indianapolis, Ind., were read by the secretary, Mrs. Helen Paul, South Bend. Mrs. Zerah Carter, parliamentarian gave a report of rules committee and seated the delegates—minutes of the Executive Board held Sunday morning were read by the secretary, Mrs. Daisy Vernado.

During the Monday afternoon session, Mrs. Zerah Carter of Evansville conducted the election after Mrs. Lena Harris, chairman of nominating committee posted a slate of officers. The following were elected to offices: Mrs. Juanita Brown, East Chicago, president; Mrs. Blanch Cross, Indianapolis, first vice-president; Mrs. Zerah P. Carter, Evansville, second vice-president; Mrs. Willa Owsley, Indianapolis, recording secretary; Mrs. Madeline Metcalf, Muncie, assistant secretary; Mrs. Fannie Benford, Gary, financial secretary; Mrs. Lottie Stith, Indianapolis, treasurer; Mrs. Lucille Williams, Muncie, auditor; Mrs. Leola Comer, Gary, chaplain; Mrs. Mabel Goens, Muncie, stationer; Mrs. Gertrude Williams, East Chicago, parliamentarian; Mrs. Laura Passimore, East Chicago, Ch. Ex-Bd., Mrs. Clara Phillips, Indianapolis, sec't, Ex-Bd., Mrs. Mabel W. Strum, Ft. Wayne, State organizer; Mrs. Edith Shauntee, Bloomington, historian; Mrs. Geraldine Coker, South Bend, supervisor NACG's; Mrs. Mary Hatfield, Gary, scholarship chairman; Mrs. Evelyn Davis, East Chicago, North Star District; Mrs. Mamie Gibson, Indianapolis, Central District; Mrs. Adonia Seates, Muncie, Eastern; Mrs. Wanda Dampier, Evansville, Southern District;—Trustees are: Mrs. Mary Lindsey, Mrs. Laura Owens, Mrs. Estella Swancey, Mrs. Fannie Bartlett, all of Indianapolis; Mrs. Hallie Hayes, Gary; Mrs. Nannie Waddy, West Baden; Mrs. Rose Carter, Anderson.

Following the election of officers a workshop was held—Highway and Public Safety—"Saving our lives", Mr. Ivan Martin, Manager of safety Council, Chamber of Commerce, Ft. Wayne. "A Crusade For Safe Driving", Mr. C. W. Anderson, Work Manager, International Harvester Co., Ft. Wayne—A film on Safety was shown by the Safety Committee. The some 200 women or more in attendance at this session appeared to have gained much from this enlightening workshop.

At 6:30 p.m. a banquet and welcome program were held at St. John Christian Episcopal Church with Mrs. Josephine Williams serving as mistress of ceremony—Greetings from the Community—Mr. Albert Jennings, Ex-Eec't. at McCulloch Center; Women's Council of Ft. Wayne and Allen County—Mrs. Florence Subzda, president. A telegram was read from the Ft. Wayne Council of the National Council of Negro Women, Mrs. Corrine Brooks, president. Mrs. Irene McCoy Gaines, Chicago, president National Association of Colored Women—guest speaker and also installed the newly elected officers of the state association.

Many lovely presentations were made to Mrs. Gaines and Mrs. Johnson, among them a "corsage of dollar bills," to Mrs. Johnson from the delegation Mrs. Mabel W. Strum sang with Mrs. Golda H. Jones as accompanist, "I've Done My Work", dedicated to Mrs. Johnson. The banquet closed with Mr. Beuford Williams singing and playing "May The Good Lord Bless and Keep You" Mr. Williams is known professionally as "Eddie" and will have a record album released in a few days by one of the leading record companies. Decca Company.

Colored
Henry
Fort
on of

Beauford Williams, Jr.
Stage name.
C.D.

Black unemployment, grave even under normal conditions, during the Great Depression was appallingly steep, teeming with blacks on the public dole. In 1933, with the U.S. in the throes of the greatest economic crisis it had ever faced, witnessed one third of Fort Wayne's small black community eligible for federal relief. Nationally, in its efforts to draw the country out of the depression, the Roosevelt administration set up as part of the *New Deal*, the W.P.A. (Works Progress Administration). Many blacks throughout America were assisted by this program. At the local level, the Wheatley staff administered W.P.A., which brought new energy and purpose to the organization. The W.P.A.'s mission of fostering education and organization building must have been greeted warmly by Alsup.

Historically, the local business community appears to have established at its core, within its inner 'sanctum', an economic tradition of discriminatory and racist practices towards blacks. In the 1920's and early 1930's it was a common practice to deny black women employment in the city's booming electrical machinery, knit goods, and clothing factories where thousands of white women worked. Black women were continuing to find work as domestics. Men, traditionally the main provider of the family, saw black men faring even worse. Inequities of the norm were temporarily derailed during the second World War due to the fact manpower was sorely needed in the defense industries. On the national level, labor leader A. Phillip Randolph, and other black leaders were demanding an end to job discrimination in the defense industries. Randolph threatened to bring at least 100,000 protestors to march on Washington D.C. on the 4th of July 1941 if a new government policy was not instituted to end job discrimination in the defense industries. Conceding, in June of 1941, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802 forbidding discrimination by employers and unions in defense industries. To enforce his order, Roosevelt created the *President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices* to investigate and monitor allegations of discrimination. Alsup served on the Fort Wayne Defense Committee, which fostered the promotion of individual jobs in local factories. Black women and men found job opportunities and job training previously denied them. With the war's end the dominant society continued its standard discriminatory practices in the private sector.

One of the mainstays of the center, Alsup built strong relationships and valuable bonds with local businesses to find employment for her clients, offering them individual counseling. She and her fellow staff members must have met some success, for the 1936-37 annual report reveals that the agency helped place 200 men and women in new jobs, even though all the jobs were bottom-rung positions. Compelled to work within the accepted perimeters of her time, she assisted her clients in obtaining job training in skills for domiciliary occupations----the customary type of job offerings to African Americans. In 1933, for instance, she headed up a training program for women domestic servants which tied racial uplift with working-class empowerment. "To give black women a competitive edge," reveals local historian Peggy Seigel in her 2008 IMH article, *Pushing the Color Line: Race & Employment in Fort Wayne, Indiana (1933-1963)*, "the center offered a six-week course at Central High School as part of its industrial training program. Taught by two college professors and a high school teacher, the classes gave women training in home economics and psychology. Demand was high---75 women enrolled in the March 1933 class." In addition to overseeing



The quest to live in dignity & to earn a decent wage

H Y M N

I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED

1. I know not why God's wondrous grace To me He hath made known,
Nor why unworthy--Christ in love Redeemed me for His own.
2. I know not how this saving faith To me He did impart,
Nor how believing In His Word Wrought peace within my heart.
3. I know not how the Spirit moves, Convincing men of sin,
Revealing Jesus thro the Word, Creating faith in Him.
4. I know not what of good or ill May be reserved for me,
Of weary ways or golden days, Before His face I see.
5. I know not when my Lord may come, At night or noonday fair,
Nor if I walk the vale with Him, Or "meet Him in the air."

CHORUS:

But "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is
able To keep that which I've committed Unto Him against that day."

CALEB'S PERSEVERANCE

So Caleb had two elements of power to rely upon--most obvious his own strength, most fundamental and necessary, God's strength. With both he felt equipped for any achievement and to his direct unevasive way of thinking, a man so abundantly equipped ought to do something. At eighty-five years of age, Caleb would have seemed justified if he had retired from active life, as we say.

Circumstances would have justified it too. Joshua was tired of war and ready to let the conquest of the land rest where it was. Room enough for all the tribes was in his possession, and if a few strongholds like Hebron and Jesus remained to the Canaanites, he thought no harm would come of it. But bold, thorough-going ~~Heb was not~~ looking for ease. The Lord's enemies were still entrenched in the land and he was still able to fight, therefore, he thought the war ought to go on.

Does not Caleb's stalwart figure looming out of this ancient story challenge us of the twentieth century for our slackness of hands? If Hebron in the possession of the heathens would not let Caleb rest, how shall we rest while a thousand strongholds of modern society are dominated by hosts of evil?

-----Richard H. Dixon

The Industrial Womens Club of Wheatley Social Center invites the Church membership and public to an afternoon Tea Sunday, Jan. 26th from 3:30 to 6:30. Dainty refreshments will be served. President, Mrs. Margaret Walker

The Lillian Jones Brown Culture Club will present an interesting Forum Program at Turner Chapel A.M.E. Church Sunday afternoon, Feb. 16 at 3:00 O'clock. Our guest speaker will be Mrs. Lillian Jones Brown, prominent Club woman and public school teacher of Indianapolis, Ind. President, Mrs. Josephine Williams

WHY GO TO CHURCH ? ? ? ? ?

Some go to Church to take a walk;
Some go there to laugh and talk;
Some go there to meet a friend;
Some go there their time to spend;
Some go there to meet a lover;
Some go there a fault to cover;
Some go there for speculation;
Some go there for observation;
Some go there to doze and nod;
The wise go there to worship God!

----- Richard H. Dixon

Oct 5, 1934

Re. no. 43 no. 2/66

MEMBERS

Elma Alsup, Advisor
 ✓ Helen Babb
 Thelma Cook
 ✓ Juanita Coakley
 Wanda Edwards
 Irene Chavis
 Louise Jones
 Gladys Lowe
 Ellen Lester
 Victoria Littlejohn
 ✓ Bertha McDonald
 ✓ Rema Milton
 Versia Nash
 Mary Powell
 ✓ Sina Mae Powell
 Carrie Shaw
 ✓ Eligabeth Tally
 ✓ Myrtle Venters
 ✓ Josephine Williams
 Evelyn Wallace

541 Brackenridge
 814 Eliza 11/14/34
 2115 Winch
 R. R. 10 Smith 1/3/36
 438 Dalman
 425 Dalman 1/22/37
 Chestnut
 820 Eliza
 1139 Eliza
 1826 John 2/6/35
 418 Dalman 9/1/36
 415 E. Douglas 11/10/37
 520 Brackenridge
 919 Eliza
 1220 Monroe 4/9/36
 907½ Eliza
 1314 Shute (Inactive) re. 165
 1820 Weisser Park
 1324 Eliza
 Out of Town

Thelma Alsup, Advisor 2/19/40

Helen Babb 6/1/40

Thelma Cook

Juanita Coakley

Wanda Edwards

Irene Chavis

Louise Jones

Gladys Lowe

Ellen Lester

Victoria Littlejohn

Bertha McDonald 3/7/42

Rema Milton

Versia Nash

Mary Powell

Sina Mae Powell

Thelma Alsup 12/50
 Helen Babb
 Thelma Cook
 Juanita Coakley
 Wanda Edwards
 Irene Chavis
 Louise Jones 1/51

Gladys Lowe 11/51 re 164

Ellen Lester 11/51

Victoria Littlejohn 1/53

Bertha McDonald 1/56

Rema Milton 1/60

Versia Nash 1969

Mary Powell 1969

Sina Mae Powell

Thelma Alsup

Helen Babb

CWC

training classes, Alsup facilitated a center sponsored working women's club that instilled a spirit of self-worth in its members. An Industrial Women's Club was formed locally through the Y.W.C.A., where Alsup served on the board. During this same period, she lent her considerable influence and service to organizations pursuing better interracial understanding.

While Alsup worked within the dominant milieu, early signs of the modern civil rights movement were beginning to stir and Alsup was in stride. In the winter of 1934, Alsup accompanied Unthank and the Boy's Work Secretary John Ridley to a forum that met in Indianapolis to organize the new Negro Economic Welfare Council of Indiana; a council formed to promote black economic progress. Alsup and Unthank, in 1936, traveled to Chicago to attend the founding convention of the National Negro Congress. Also attending from Fort Wayne were the following enter sponsored organizations: the City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, the Toujour Fidele Club, the Mother's Club, and the Men's Civic League. At the convention, where over 5,000 had assembled, A. Philip Randolph declared without equivocation that African Americans could not rely on the *New Deal* or caring white allies for solutions to their problems. Alsup's involvement and dedication to equality for African Americans demonstrated through her activism, work, and community service a life committed to black economic progress and social advancement.

Paying tribute, in 1972, to a woman who had spent her life building, guiding, and lighting the way for others, the Federated Women's Club organized an event to honor Elma Alsup. The club, in collaboration with the Fort Wayne Urban League, where Alsup had worked with such commitment for decades, held the Elma E. Alsup Appreciation Day, at the McCulloch Center. During an interview, prior to that event, Alsup remarked, "There's a need for more social work now...young or old [we] need something more than money...personal involvement [is needed]it is the sharing that counts, all races, that's what's important. The right guidance is what counts ...and they'll [youth] tell you if they're not interested. You just have to live with them (as they are), encourage them.....it's all you can do". Community leaders praised her, observing that---"She was always willing to share whatever she could with those in need...she went far beyond her duties in helping young people".

Alsup never married. She adopted orphaned, homeless, eight-year-old Elijah Paschall, and raised him as her own. Elijah grew up to become a teacher and minister in Macon, Georgia, where he lived his adult life. He married and had four daughters, who went on to college after high school graduation. Alsup, who outlived her son, died at Fairfield Healthcare Center on February 17, 1985. She is laid to rest in Lindenwood Cemetery.

Alsup always looked for and found the good in others. She attributed much of the way she led her life to her parents, who raised her from childhood 'to do good' and adhere to her Christian faith, which she said came first in her life. A devoted member of Union Baptist Church for over sixty years, serving on its Missionary Board, a member of its Floral Club, Senior Choir and Gospel Chorus; she taught Sunday School for many years. A charter member of the Olive Rhoads Floral Club of Turner Chapel A.M.E. Church, she remained actively involved in the group.



THE WOMAN'S COUNCIL

Indianapolis, Indiana

The Woman's Council was organized on December 21, 1909 by Mrs. Lillian Jones Brown. A fine group of women were commencing to realize the great need of educational advantages for our boys and girls and community problems to be solved. The Council became a member of the National Federation in 1910 and a member of the Indiana State Federation in 1913.

Mrs. Lillian Jones Brown was the first president and was later chairman of the National Children's department



LILLIAN BROWN
1st President



PLANS TEA SUNDAY—The Lillian Jones Brown Club will entertain with a scholarship tea Sunday from 4-7 p.m. at the McCulloch Community Center. The event will follow the theme, "Brides of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." Those in charge of the tea are (left to right): Mrs. Beauford Williams, advisor; Mrs. Herschel Babb, chairman, Mrs. Herbert Mosley, president of the group, and Mrs. Ulysses Coakley, co-chairman. Mrs. Fletcher Nard, who is assisting with arrangements, was absent when the picture was taken. (News-Sentinel Photo)

Sept. 1969.



FASHION REVUE — The Lillian Jones Brown Culture Club will present a Fall Fashion Revue from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. Friday at the Hobby Ranch House, 3204 North Anthony Blvd. Making final arrangements are, left to right, Mrs. Ozia Maxwell, Mrs. Oscar Wilson, Mrs. Lucille Mosley and Mrs. Albert Dandridge. Mrs. Mosley is chairman of the show and Mrs. Wilson is president of the club. The event is open to the public. Proceeds will be applied to the scholarship

LOUNGE CLUB MAKES CONTEST AWARDS

*Edw. Wayne Chapman
11/22/36*



The Lounge Club of the local Daughters Elks held a party last Tuesday in their beautiful lounge. The occasion for the party was to award the prizes for the recent popularity contest. Lunch and refreshments were served and an enjoyable evening was had by all. Pictured above are 16 of the Club's 43 members: Seated, left to right, Robertine Lamy, Secretary, Mrs. J. D. Andrews, president; Mrs. Willa Mae Alexander, treasurer; Mrs. Irene Dawkins, Chairman of publicity committee. Standing, 1st row, Mrs. Verd Jones, Mrs. Lorene Jones, Mrs. Cula Young, Miss Laura Reed, Mrs. Lucy Sharon. Back row, Mrs. Jimmie E. Moore, Mrs. Rachel el Danbridge, Mrs. Charlotte Reed, Mrs. Margaret Howell, Mrs. Josephine Williams, Mrs. Bernetta Carter and Bertha Savoyes. Twenty-seven other members of the Lounge Club were not present.

— Photos by Edwards Photograph

We are Sisters within the bonds of fellowship,
As Sisters, we will stand by each other in weal & in woe,
in success and in failure throughout the days of our lives
and we will give of our best that we may be worthy of our Club.
We will work and study, be honest and generous that we may be
worthy of this Sisterhood. We will help not hinder, give
praise to others and keep criticism for ourselves. And may
we so grow, that while we are proud of our Club, She may
feel proud of us, Her Daughters.

MOTTO

"STEP BY STEP, WE REACH THE HEIGHTS, LIFTING AS WE CLIMB"

CLUB FLOWER: THE ROSE

CLUB COLORS: ORCHID & GREEN

CLUB SONG: PRECIOUS LORD

Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn
Thru the storm, thru the night
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand, Precious Lord, lead me on.

When the world is in distress
Let me lean on Thy breast
For my hope And refuge is in Thee
Hear my groans, Hear my cry
Let me know that Thou art near
Take my hand, Precious Lord
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear
Precious Lord, draw me nearer
When my life is almost gone
Hear my cry, Hear my call
Hold my hand, lest I fall
Take my hand, Precious Lord
Lead me home.

MAY 13th, 1979

Ma Milton, Hostess
5 E. Douglas
3-1008
Rutha McDonald, Devotions
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

MAY 10th, 1979

Ma Nard, Hostess
20 S. Hanna
4-0726
Ma Milton, Devotions
GRO HISTORY OBSERVANCE
AR ROUND JELLY EFFORT

MAY 10th, 1979

Ma Owens, Hostess
31 Summitt
2-8780
Ma Nard, Devotions
SERMON ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

MAY 14th, 1979

Ma Powell, Hostess
Ma Nard
Ma Owens, Devotions
LATER VISITATION & GIFTS TO
HOSPITAL CONVALESCENCE CENTER

MAY 12th, 1979

Rutha Sawyer
G. Dalman
4-1466
Ma Powell, Devotions
MATERNITY GIFTS TO THE MOTHERS
BAGGAGE & BAKE SALE (May 5th)

MAY 9th, 1979

Elizabeth Talley, Hostess
14 Chute
4-1446
Rutha Sawyer, Devotions
ATTENTION DISCUSSIONS
ANNIVERSARY PLANS

MAY 8th AUGUST *** VACATION
(ALL MEETING FOR A DISCO)

SEPTEMBER 8th, 1979

Josephine Williams, Hostess
722 Woodview
745-9872
Elizabeth Talley, Devotions
CONVENTION REPORT

SEPTEMBER 29th, 1979

CLUB ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
DINNER(place to be chosen)
INVITE MOTHER OF CLUB, Ms. Rindy

OCTOBER 13th, 1979

Berneice Wilson, Hostess
5433 Smith
456-7048
Josephine Williams, Devotions
REPORT ON ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 16th, 1979

Helen Babb, Hostess
445 Dalman
442-6733
Berneice Wilson, Devotions
GIFT EXCHANGE*** \$5.00
ELECTION OF OFFICERS
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

DECEMBER *** NO MEETING

JANUARY 12th, 1980

Helen Benjamin, Hostess
315 Esmonds
745-3555
Helen Babb, Devotions
BUSINESS MEETING

Elma E. Alsup	705½ Madison	743-8878	B'day	Apr. 24th
Helen Babb (Anniv. Oct. 1st)	445 Dalman	442-6733	B'day	June 15th
Helen Benjamin	315 Esmonds	745-3555	B'day	Mar. 31st
May Burks (Anniv. Oct. 13th)	1422 S. Hanna	422-0075	B'day	May 20th
Juanita Coakley (Anniv.)	5618 Smith	745-7705	B'day	Nov. 13th
Myrtle Davis (Anniv. Aug. 22nd)	1413 Hugh	422-5666	B'day	Aug. 4th
Othello Harvey	2620 Holton	441-9843	B'day	April 14th
Bertha Hayes (Anniv. July 27th)	836 Hugh	422-6343	B'day	Mar. 15th
Lydia Jones	818 Hugh	743-0286	B'day	Feb. 19th
Bonnie Lebeouf	2705 Castle Drive	447-2892	B'day	Apr. 1st
Electra Maxwell (Anniv. Jan. 30th)	1407 Summit	424-1407	B'day	July 26th
Bertha McDonald (Anniv. Jan. 31st)	1422 Summit	422-1856	B'day	May 30th
Rema Milton (Anniv. Jan. 31st)	415 E. Douglas	743-1008	B'day	June 21st
Lucille Mosley	1508 Ventura	447-6269	B'day	Apr. 16th
Louise Nard (Anniv. Apr. 23rd)	1420 S. Hanna	424-0726	B'day	Feb. 22nd
Nell Owens (Anniv. Oct. 11th)	1331 Summit	422-8780	B'day =	Feb. 2nd
Sina Powell	2930 Reed	744-2788	B'day	July 15th
Bertha Sawyer (Anniv.)	426 Dalman	744-1466	B'day	Sept. 27th
Elizabeth Talley (Anniv. May 24th)	1314 Chure	424-3446	B'day	Jan. 6th
Josephine Williams (Anniv. Dec. 7th)	722 Woodview	745-9872	B'day	Feb. 28th
Berneice Wilson (Anniv. Aug. 16th)	5433 Smith	456-7048	B'day	July 31st

LJBCC

COMMITTEES

PROGRAM

May Burks, Chair-person
Berneice Wilson, Co-Chair-person
Helen Babb
Lucille Mosley
Louise Nard

ENTERTAINMENT

Bertha McDonald, Chair-person
Helen Benjamin, Co-Chair-person
Bertha Hayes
Bonnie Lebeouf
Nell Owens
Bertha Sawyer

Josephine Williams
BUDGET

Josephine Williams, Chair-person
Louise Nard, Co-Chair-person
Rema Milton
Lucille Mosley
May Burks
Bertha McDonald
Berneice Wilson
Myrtle Davis

RULES & BY-LAWS

Helen Babb, Chair-person
May Burks, Co-Chairperson
Rema Milton
Berneice Wilson
Elizabeth Talley

PUBLICITY

Lucille Mosley, Chair-person
Louise Nard, Co-Chair-person
Elma E. Alsup
Helen Benjamin

MEMBERSHIP

Bertha Hayes, Chair-person
Bonnie Lebeouf, Co-Chair-p
Bertha Sawyer
Sina Powell
Myrtle Davis

FLOWERS

Othello Harvey, Chair-pers

CARDS (SICK & SYMPATHY ETC

Rema Milton, Chair-person

TELEPHONE

Rema Milton, Chair-person
Bertha Hayes, Co-Chair-per
Sina Powell

Greetings from
JENNIE CONNOR CIVIC CLUB
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS



Front row, left to right — Katherine Dixie, Vernell Loving (2nd Vice Pres.), Lucinda Briggs (President), Adlene Randolph, Almenta Houston (Devotion Leader), Kathyne Lyons, Eliza Fowler, Ella Thomas, Maggie Lowe, Margaret Senter (Secretary)

Back row, left to right — Jessie Lyons, Clara Sanders (Parliamentary), Gwendolyn Rogers (Asst. Secy.), Bertha Bird, Margaret Howell (Past State President), Jimmie Lou Ganaway, Arlene Burch Tharp, Katie Kelso and Lorraine Dennis.

Not pictured — Elma] Alsup, Clara Chambers, Julia B. Chambers, Annie Daughtery, Channis Edwards, Luella Flagg, Essie Griggs, Corrine Holt, Velma Jackson, Gladys Marshall, Fannie Morris, Estella Mitchell, Ella Mae Brown, Magnolia Moore (1st Vice-Pres.), Jeffery Cox, Bessie Minniefield, Reola Ogden, Ledila Pearson (Flower Chrmn.), Flozella Rindy, Frances Scruggs, Parnella Tubbs, Florence Turner, Ida Wilson (Treas.), Beatrice Woods, Bernetta Young, Nettie Topps, Sina Mae Powell, Bonnie La Bourf, Almenta Alexander, Victoria Littlejohn, and Mildred McPherson.

SUNDAY JULY 1, 1984
4:00PM

JENNIE CONNORS CIVIC CLUB

47TH ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

TER OF INDIANA AND NATIONAL FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMENS CLUBS

WORSHIP PERIOD.....	MRS. MAGNOLIA MOORE
GREETINGS.....	MRS. LORRAINE DENNIS
SELECTION.....	GOMEZ AME CHOIR
HISTORY.....	MRS. MILDRED MCPHERSON
SOLO.....	MRS. LAVERNE BURNETT
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER.....	MRS. KATIE KELSO
SPEAKER.....	MRS. WILLA MILLER
SOLO.....	MS. KATHKA WILLIAMS
OFFERING.....	MRS. CLARA CHAMBERS
	MRS. BONNIE LEBUFF
	MRS. CLARA SANDERS
RECOGNITION OF FEDERATED CLUBS	
REMARKS.....	MRS. CATHERINE DIXIE
BENEDICTION.....	CLUB MOTTO

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

GOMEZ A.M.E. CHURCH
SOUTH ANTHONY STREET
FORT WAYNE, IN

LILLIAN JONES BROWN CULTURE CLUB

Meeting in the clubrooms at the Phyllis Wheatley Social Center, on September 21, 1934, the federated Lillian Jones Brown Culture Club was organized by Gladys Lowe, Catherine Lyons, Versia Nash, Ellen Lester, Juanita Dixie, Carrie Shaw, Mary Powell, Josephine Williams, and Nellie Lowe, with the assistance of Elma Alsup. These young women along with Louise Ridley and Mariam Mourning were the charter members of the club. Other early members were Helen Babb, Thelma Cook, Juanita Coakley, Wanda Edwards, Irene Chavis, Louise Jones, Victoria Littlejohn, Bertha McDonald, Rema Milton, Edna Powell, Sina Mae Powell, Elizabeth Talley, Myrtle Venters, and Evelyn Wallace. Miss Elma Alsup was named the club advisor. The group voted to name their club, after Indianapolis resident, Mrs. Lillian Brown, who at that time, was president of the Western District, presiding over fourteen states. It was resolved that the purpose of the club would be "to help in development of finer womanhood and give of [their] best toward Charity, Education, Civic and Community projects" with the adoption of the motto---"Step by Step, we reach the heights, lifting as we climb." The club agreed to meet semi-monthly, at the Wheatley Center, on the first and third Fridays of the month. Those elected to serve a term of one year as officers were: Mrs. Gladys Lowe, president; Mrs. Catherine Lyons, vice-president; Mrs. Nellie Lowe, assistant secretary; Mrs. Versia Nash, treasurer and Mrs. Carrie Shaw, parliamentarian. The officers of the club were installed on October 5, 1934. Appointed as committee chairmen were Mrs. Josephine Williams, Program; Mrs. Mary Powell, Ways & Means, and Mrs. Ellen Lester, Membership. Appointments were made by the club president. The executive board was composed of the cabinet and past chairmen. Club activities have included raising monies for club projects by having formal dances, raffles, candy sales, hosting that shows, members presenting papers on notable African Americans, guest speakers, State Federation convention reports, making charity baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas, bolstering club solidarity and friendship through Secret Pal pairings, etc.

In later years, the reorganization of the club's By-Laws stipulated the name of the club, its flower(the rose), its song (*Precious Lord*), limited membership to 20, dues set at \$12.00 annually, joining fee of \$2.50, meetings to be held semi-monthly on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at members homes, recitation of club creed at each meeting, membership applicants to be named and voted on by ballot and admitted if unanimously selected, if accepted to be officially notified by secretary, date for full payment of dues set and delineated penalties for various club infractions, rules of club elections, etc. McCulloch Recreation Center was the setting for the club's 46th anniversary in 1980. Elma Alsup offered remarks, while Mrs. Otis Price was the featured speaker. Mrs. Florzelle Rindy was named '*Mother of the Club*' that year. At the club's 50th anniversary, which was held at the Allen County Public Library, on September 29, 1984, several presidents from sister federated clubs attended offering their greetings on that special occasion. The clubs represented were Jennie Conner Civic Club, Margaret Howell Women's Club, Jr. Lillian Jones Brown Club, Bertha McDonald Women's Club, Elma Alsup Club, and the Ultra Art Club.

JENNIE CONNOR CIVIC CLUB

On September 8, 1947, the Jennie Connor Civic Club (now defunct) was organized at the



Officers, left to right: Frances Payne, treasurer; Fannie Morris, vice president; Beatrice Borders, president; Jessie Flood, secretary.

JENNIE CONNER CIVIC CLUB
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

1953
J.C.C.
CLUB OFFICERS

THE LILLIAN JONES BROWN CULTURE CLUB

1934 - - - - - 1967

Club Song, "Precious Lord"

Flower, "Rose"

PAST PRESIDENTS

Josephine Williams
Berneice Wilson

Louise Nard
Myrtle Davis

"OUR SILENT MEMBERS"

Ellen Lester
Louise Thomas Johnson
Rachel McClendon Dates
LuVada Nard Degraffenreed

Louise Fisher Ridley
Margurite Warfield
Nora Ridley



SEATED: (left to right)—Josephine Williams, Chaplain; Elma E. Alsup, Advisor; Lucille Mosley, President; Nell Owens, Vice President; May Burks, Secretary, and Myrtle Davis.

STANDING: (left to right)—Rema Milton, Juanita Cookley, Berneice Wilson, Louise Nard, (Parliamentarian), Bertha Sawyer, Othello Harvey, Bertha McDonald and Bonnie Lebeouf.

Those not present when picture was taken: Helen Babb, Treasurer; Alice Bohannon, Blanche Crowder, Rachel Dandridge, Bertha Hayes, Victoria Phillips and Elizabeth Talley, Assist. Secretary.

THE LILLIAN JONES BROWN CULTURE CLUB

Organized 1934

by
Miss Elma E. Alsup

FIRST OFFICERS

President	Gladys Lowe
Vice President	Juanita Dixie
Secretary	Catherine Lyons
Assistance Secretary	Nelloe Lowe
Treasurer	Versia Nash
Parliamentarian	Carrie Shaw

ACTIVE CHARTER MEMBERS

Josephine Williams
Rema Milton
Helen Babb

PURPOSE OF CLUB

To help in the developement of finer womanhood
and give of our best towards Charity, Education,
Civic and Community Projects.

OFFICERS 1979

President	Electra Maxwell
Vice President	Bertha Mc Donald
Secretary	Louise Nard
Assistance Secretary	Helen Benjamin
Treasurer	Helen Babb
Assistance Treasurer	Josephine Williams
Parliamentarian	May Burks
Chaplains	Josephine Williams
	Othello Harvey

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Advisor	Elma E. Alsup
Chair-person	Bertha McDonald
Past Presidents	May Burks
	Rema Milton
	Myrtle Davis
	Lucille Mosley
	Louise Nard
	Berneice Wilson
	Josephine Williams

Lillian Jones Brown Jr. Culture Club

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Welcome Delegates



Front Row Left to Right

Mrs. Lucille Allen, Treasurer
Mrs. Barbara Shields
Mrs. Diane Hollins
Mrs. Carolyn Raines

Back Row Left to Right

Mrs. Evelyn Hunter, Secretary
Mrs. Elizabeth Brown, President
Mrs. Delores Cade, Corres. Secy.

Absent from picture

Mrs. Thusa Moore
Mrs. Jo Sharon Jordon
Mrs. Prestite Renfro
Mrs. Joanie Starks
Mrs. Billie Wagstaff
Mrs. Mary Babb

JUNIOR LILLIAN JONES BROWN CLUTURE CLUB

CLUB CREED

We are Sisters within the bond of fellowship. As sisters, we shall mount up with wings as eagles; we shall run and not be weary; and shall walk and not faint, that we may be worthy of our Club. These things we do for our Society to better ourselves with our fellowman that they may feel proud of us.

CLUB MOTTO

Step by step, we reach the heights, lifting as we climb. May the Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another. AMEN

Club Colors : Black + Silver

Club Flower : Carnation

Club Song : "Yield Not To Temptation"

Wheatley Center by Elma Alsup. The club was named in honor of the mother of an eminent violinist and composer, Dr. Clarence Cameron White. The club's purpose was to advance the status of young people of color and to encourage them to excel in higher education. The civic interest of J.C.C.C. varied; the club contributed to many community projects for the general uplift of all Fort Wayne citizenry. The club's first president, Mrs. Roberta Dean Terry, served 1947 and 1948. During her tenure, the club kicked-off its first 'Garden Party' and a few months later presented renowned concert pianist, Leon Fitzpatrick. Some of the club highlights from 1949- 1951, under Mrs. William Brigg's presidency, was the hosting of a successful bazaar, the continuance of the annual Garden Party affair, and a performance by violinist Dr. White. Also, the club presented the celebrated Central High School Choir and awarded a scholarship to Marvella Chambers. From 1952-1953, Mrs. Beatrice Borders led the club. During that period the club carried on its customary functions. Bake sales, along with other fundraising activities, were held to generate funds to support the club's civic and philanthropic projects. One significant highlight of 1953 took place at 'the Garden Party,' where Mrs. Benjamin Liburd, staged a play titled, "The Life Story of Mrs. Jennie Connor". Musical presentations, noted speakers, and book reviews given by club members rounded out the year's activities. The J.C.C.C. was affiliated with the Indiana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and the National Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. Locally, the club was a member of the Fort Wayne Citizen's Council and the Citywide Women's Council.

JUNIOR . LILLIAN JONES BROWN CULTURE CLUB

The J.L.J.B.C.C. Club grew out of the Lillian Brown Jones Culture Club, which was referred to as 'the senior club'. Due to limiting the membership and a desire to further the longevity of the club's name led to the formation in May of 1967 of the offshoot club; the Junior Lillian Jones Brown Culture Club. The purpose of the organization as stated in its by-laws is to promote the education of women and children. "To raise the standards of the home, improve conditions for family living, protect the rights of women and children and promote interracial understanding so that justice may prevail among all people of the community", begins the text. The club's motto is "Step by Step We Reach the Heights, Lifting as We Climb." Meeting in each others homes, on the third Saturday of the month, the club reached twenty members, by the end of 1968. Members were Doris Seals, Eileen Ervin, Helen Nard, Delores Cade, Dorothy Page, Geraldine Black, Dian Hollins, Mary Babb, Wilma Mudd, Elizabeth Brown, Lucille Allen, Barbara Shields, Theresa Babb, Kitty Blackman, Lena Green, Clease Howell, Jean Perry, Jonnie Stacks, Carolyn Whitaker, and Mamie Witherspoon. The first elected officers of the new club were Doris Sacks, president, Eileen Ervin, vice-president, Helen Nard, secretary, Delores Cade, treasurer, Dorothy Byrd, corresponding secretary, Geraldine Black, chaplain, Dian Hollins, parliamentarian. Mrs. Josephine Williams, a charter member of LBJCC, was appointed advisor to the club; she served in that capacity until her death. The club held, in 1980, a 'Friendship Social' at Link's Wonderland to honor Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Helen Babb for the inspiration they imparted to club members. Mrs. Williams, whose mentoring had proven to be so in-valuable, advised members, as part of her duties, on protocol, parliamentary procedures, and meeting management.

During the J.L.J.B.C.C.'s formative years, the two related clubs co-sponsored, for fundraising

purposes, "black & white" formal dances, where those attending came formally attired. Another fundraising effort was the selling of dinners. In recent years, the club's most lucrative manner of raising funds has been the bus trips they sponsor to shopping malls in the Midwest. Recently, the club hosted its second annual Jazz & Brunch event, which was held to raise funds for scholarship. Featured guest speaker, Melody Blair, President-elect of the Indiana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs & Youth Affiliates spoke on *Lifting As We Climb*. Baines, who attended, reported Blair, "spoke about how she [began] as the Youth Supervisor for I.F.C.W.C...and came up through the ranks with the encouragement of her mother and other club sisters". Blair also shared the many important ways one's involvement with the Federation is beneficial to the individual, as well as, the member's community. About forty-five attended the affair; Keith Flye, a fêted local jazz artist, provided the evening's entertainment. Baines stated the other purposes of the event were to create greater awareness and knowledge of the aims and goals of the local club branch and its national organization. To help defray the club's financial obligations to the state, Regional, National, and North Star district the group holds fundraising functions throughout the year.

In addition to awarding scholarships, club members make nursing home visits and hand out small gift packages; during the holiday seasons members pass out gift baskets and certificates to families in need. The club also contributes to the state club's scholarship fund. Another community outreach effort underway by the club is its planned involvement with the Queens & Literacy Club, which mentors young girls. The club is currently solidifying its plans with the group, hoping the relationship leads, in the future, to the girls becoming interested in joining the club's federated youth auxiliary. The Hoosier federated clubs, statewide, have a long history of working with young women. Among the several reasons the youth auxiliary began was for the following reasons: 1.) to train its members morally, intellectually, culturally, and spiritually--- to teach heritage, 2.) to preserve the health and beauty of the body, 3.) to inspire love for home and humankind. The club's motto is "Know Thyself". The state club and its affiliates stress education; they have always included this focus in their youth programming at the state and national levels by sponsoring oratory and talent contests at conventions. Baines mentioned that the oratorical contest at these assemblages are not to be missed and that "the fashion shows display the creativity of these youth and their extraordinary sewing skills". At present, according to Baines, there are five active girls federated clubs in Indiana. In 1984, auxiliary boys groups were added. Mrs. Otelia Champion, a federated club woman, formed the National Association of Boys Club, noting that boys were also in need of the mentoring and guidance being accorded their counterpart by federated organizations. The "emblem" for the Boy's Club is a 'ladder to success' which represents, "*Moving On Up, Improving and Utilizing the mind to its fullest*".

While the club awards both academic and sports scholarships, this year's grant was awarded to talented athlete Ty Moore, who has the distinction of being ranked 15th in the nation by the Junior Olympics in shot putting. The club's grant will aid Ty with his trip-related expenses, to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he is scheduled to compete in A.A.U.'s National Tournament/ Track & Field Event, in the shot-putt contest [ages 9-10 category].

Local club members have participated in and helped plan state and national conventions.

Federated Women's Club holds Annual Over 65 Tea



The Margaret L. Howell Federated Women's Club recently chose Josephine Williams as queen of their Annual Over 65 Tea. Williams, who was chosen from the audience, replaces Lucille Mosely, who served as last year's reigning queen. The new queen is scheduled to celebrate her 60th wedding anniversary this weekend. (See accompanying photo and outline on this page.) Pictured are club members (left to right): Front row - Cynthia Harris, Mary Williams, Frankie Thomas, Sally Rogers; back row - Ann Woodson, club President Ileen Ervin, Sonja Seals and May Burks. -- Photo by James Alexander

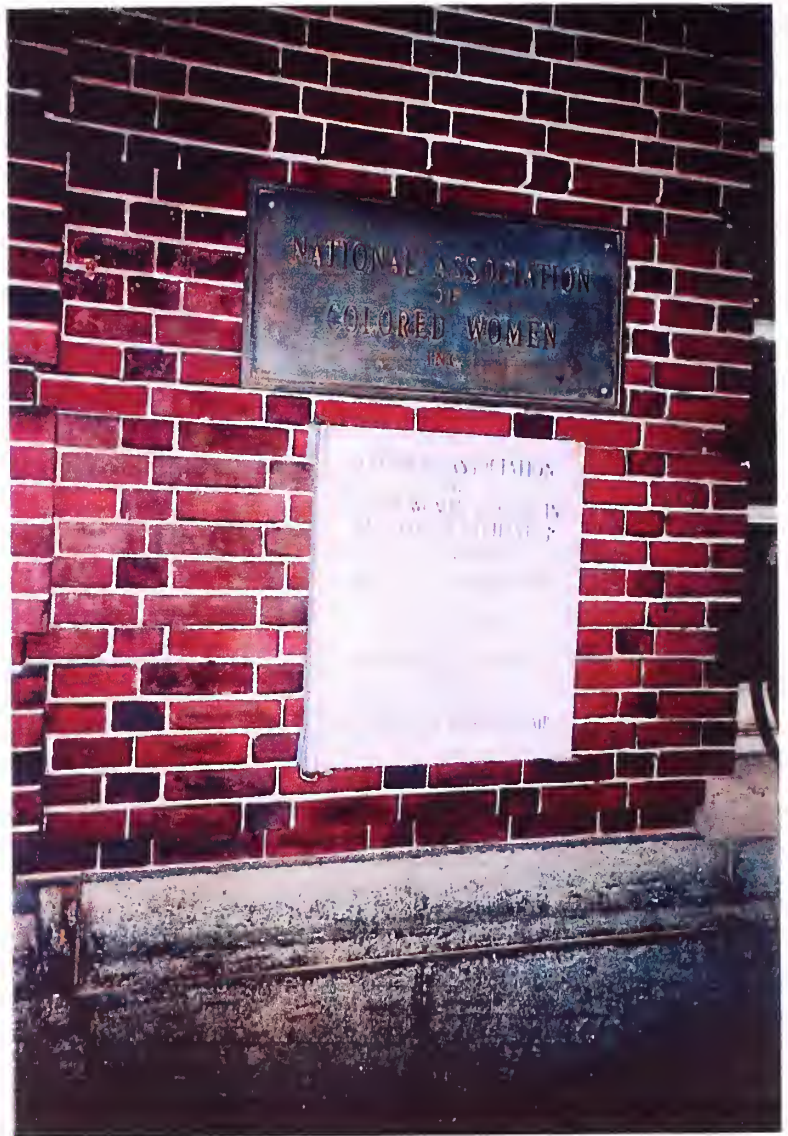


SWEET 65: Last year's "Sweet 65" Queen Josephine Williams passes the crown on to Queen Maitie Chambers Saturday at the Margaret L. Howell Federated Women's Club 10th Annual "Sweet 65" Tea & Crowning. - Photo by J.M. Collins



**National Association of
Colored Women's Clubs
Washington, D. C.**

**N.A.C.W.C. Club national
office in Washington, D. C.
-----Dedication plaque-----**



**[from the top]
Joan Baines, President of Indiana
Federation Colored Women's Clubs,
Dr. Patricia Fletcher, Past National
President of N.A.C.W.C., and
Mrs. Eva Williams, Past President
Central District, at N.A.C.W.C.
Club 'home'.**



Our Past President closes her term with a BANG! Read her closing message:

Mistress of Ceremonies, Past Presidents, Officers and Members of this 55th Session and Friends:

We are happy to meet here in this beautiful city of Anderson; we hope that our coming may be of mutual benefit and inspiration. We want to congratulate these brave women of the Phyllis Wheatley Club for assuming this big task with just one club; they are certainly doing an excellent job.

We bring you greetings this afternoon at this 55th Convention of the Indiana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. We are grateful to our Heavenly Father for this opportunity of service; for while we may be experiencing a small recession financially we must continue to work the harder to accomplish our objectives, to serve our various communities, to encourage women everywhere to keep up the highest standard of home and family life and to advise our youth that not all success is measured in dollars and cents.

As we turn to evaluate our work for the year we have found a fine spirit of cooperation and desire for service among the club women as we visited each district.

It was my happy privilege to be your representative at the State Convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at Muncie in October and to exemplify your spirit of cooperation by standing at the banquet when our life membership was acknowledged. When one organization lends its financial support to the other we are surely progressing.

We are so pleased to recognize the fine group of girls, the National Association of Colored Girls as part of our Convention; their eagerness to learn, their frank appraisal of all that goes on serves as a great challenge to us. And as we listen to their opinions and expressions of their ideas and ideals you know that we have nothing to fear for the future.

The Pilgrimage held in Indianapolis this Spring, the dream of our First Vice-President Mrs. Blanche Cross, assisted by the fine women of Indianapolis, Mrs. Coker, our State Supervisor of girls, and the other loyal sponsors who brought a hundred girls from all over this State. This was indeed an inspiring sight. It is a direct opportunity to us, club women, to use, guide and direct this latent power for there indeed are the future club women and home-makers.

Perhaps some in our audience do not know that we have a State Home and headquarters in Indianapolis; the preceding State President and her staff initiated a building program and a complete remodeling of the home to beautify it and make it more modern. The result was quite gratifying but it was necessary to mortgage the home to do this; after paying over half of the \$6,000.00 debt and the purchase of a new grand piano, it was necessary to purchase a new heating system so they decided to have oil about this time. I stepped into office and inherited the remainder of the bills.

At this time I wish to express my deep gratitude to the Trustee Board, in charge of our property, its Chairman, Mrs. Estella Swancy, who served so conscientiously and that stalwart guardian of our finance, Mrs. Lottie Stith, our Treasurer, who is always alert and can give you the right answer whenever you request it. We have paid on the mortgage this year \$2,128.67, leaving a balance of \$634.05, which we hope with your help to be able to wipe out today. We now have a balance in treasury, as well as a scholarship reserve fund of \$442.13 and \$500.00 out on loan in scholarship loans well as a one hundred dollar scholarship gift each year. Does this sound like recent friends? Just a little cooperation from each group means so much and you can accomplish surprising results. One of the main objectives of club women from the National on

(Closing message of Past Pres. - continued)

to the smallest club is education - we feel here in the Hoosier State, we now have an excellent program both for building our girls or N. A. C. G. clubs but also giving them aid and an incentive to further their education. The State gift scholarship of \$100.00 is granted to a girl who has been a member of an N. A. C. G. club two years, and a high school graduate; this gift alternates from district to district; as well as our loan fund available to any needy student who can produce the necessary requirements. This, then, is one of our answers to those who may inquire, "what do club women do?" As I near the close of this administration, I wish to acknowledge the fine cooperation from all of you, the Past Presidents, who serve as the Advisory Board and have been at my service constantly, and it means so much to know they are with you; and nothing have I asked of you fine club women that you have not tried to do.

We bow our heads in sorrow and respect for one whom we all loved, our beloved senior Past President, Mrs. Carrie Crump, who passed away in April of 1958.

Now to turn to the club woman and her community. She faces the big responsibility to home, church and community. As we consider what the club woman can do to improve her community, we analyze first just what is the community - - of what does it consist: 1. Church, 2. Schools, 3. City Government, the community organizations, service clubs, federated clubs, social clubs, block units, homes and the individuals. These represent the warp and woof that go to weave together the whole, your community - - this may sound formidable, what can a few women do about all this?

Without exception every club woman is a church woman; we do not question her denomination for each realizes this represents the source for good, for spiritual guidance to children and family. I believe every woman should find some place to give service in the church of her choice and certainly no woman would want to live in a community without a church.

Our schools, a vital part of our community is now receiving special attention because of over-crowded conditions, under-staffed as to faculty and the big question of the manner of teaching the 3 "R's", . Whether or not you have children or grandchildren in school you should talk with the teachers, let them know you are interested in their problems, your club as a whole should be cognizant of the problems facing the education of your future citizens. Then there is the big National problem now that pertains particularly to our race and integration which touches even our State; for often our teachers are forced out of employment by the change and many of these are club women, so here indeed is a problem to consider.

Then our City Government - - Oh, oh, that is politics, but yes, I feel we should participate in politics, at least to the extent that we acquaint ourselves with the issues - - that we read or listen and try to decide in our own minds from all the oratory and promises made just what is grain and what is chaff and who will be better qualified to carry out those things best for you and the community irrespective of party. Don't discount the power of a woman!!

Every club woman serves her community organizations - - the Red Cross, Community Chest, and all the various drives are aided and promoted by club women, first because she is well trained and a tireless worker; the same is true of the service clubs, the Urban League, the N. A. A. C. P., the Y. M. and Y. W. C. A. and of course her beloved Federated Clubs finds her a veritable dynamo of activity, the energy she puts in one transfers to the other, and serves as a means of helping all worthwhile efforts.

-2-

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**Joan Baines, President of
I.F.C.W.C. with N.A.A.C.P.
President Mweisi Mfume at
national convention in
Philadelphia (July, 2004)**



**Youth attending I.F.C.W.C. &
Youth Clubs Convention in
Fort Wayne (2004)**



**Centennial Year / I.F.C.W.C.
Convention Indianapolis
(June 26, 2004)**

Several local club women have also held important positions within the state organization. Theresa Moore and Delania Oman have served in several capacities including North Star District President; Dian Hollins is currently serving as State & North Star District Parliamentarian. The club won the I.F.C.W.C. State Convention Attendance Award two years in a row--2009 and 2010. Club members, in 2004, recognized their own Joan Baines, who at the time was serving as president of the Indiana State Federal Colored Women's Clubs, the highest state rank a member can attain. Baines is the organizations 36th president. Later that year, Baines presided over the 100th annual convention of the Indiana State Federation of Women's Club, which was held in Indianapolis in June of that year. Cherrie White, a member of Gary, Indiana's Phyllis Wheatley #1 Club, was the keynote speaker at the event. A ribbon cutting ceremony, celebrating the Centennial of the state organization, included such honored guests as Margaret Cooper of Washington, D.C., president of N.A.C.W.C., Julia Carson, U.S. Congresswoman from Indiana and Billie Breau, Indiana State Senator.

J.L.B.J.C.C. was inducted into the Indiana State Federation of Colored Women's Club in July of 1967, at the state convention, which was held at Fort Wayne's Hotel Van Orman. The national organization is divided into four districts; with the state of Indiana separated into four districts as well. The local club, a part of the North Star District, is considering changing to a different district in the near future. Indianapolis, also a member of the North Star District, currently has two clubs---the Nina Craft Club and the Women's Improvement Club. Local club members Theresa L. Moore, Alice Booker, Dian Hollins, and Joan Baines have life memberships in the National Federation of Colored Women's Club. While the N.A.C.W.C. will observe its 115th anniversary next year, JLBCC is celebrating its 47th year. The 2012 national convention is set to be held in Des Moines, Iowa, from July 21st through July 26th.

Current club members are Theresa Moore, president, Dynita Wilson, vice-president, Delania Oman, secretary, Joan Baines, corresponding secretary, Dian Hollins, treasurer, Alice Booker, Donna Howard-Hall, Patricia Jackson, DaVanna Seifert, Jonnie Starks, Patricia Thomas, and Barb Ware .

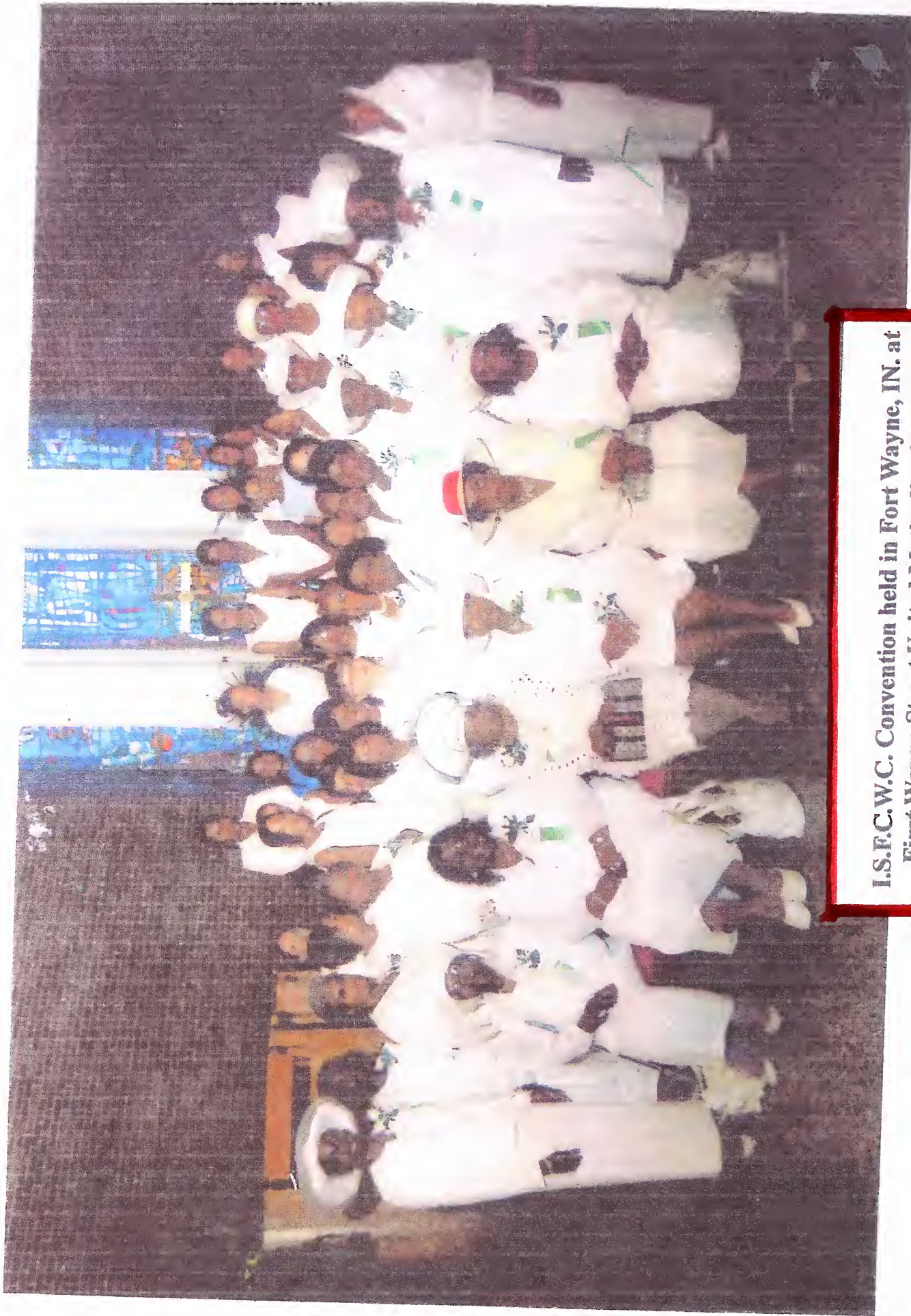
In closing, the National Association of Colored Women's Club's motto, "Lifting as we Climb", became the underpinnings of black women's clubs throughout the country. 23 The Ultra Art Club's focus on self-improvement and advocating for the arts rose to the collective philanthropic mission of promoting civic, social and welfare activities for the entire community. In its early years, the club was successful in achieving its primary goal, by identifying promising, gifted artistic black youth and then giving them the financial assistance they needed to receive the lessons and training necessary to develop their talents. The inherent potential and gifts of some of the economically limited youth of this area were not allowed to go unexpressed nor languish, due to their largesse. An outstanding example, of a watershed interval in the club's history, that remains unequalled, was the period, in which, the club brought to Fort Wayne, some of the most distinguished, acclaimed African Americans of their day. Because of the vision, a century ago, of one woman (Adeline Rhodes) whose cohorts joined with her to form the Ultra Art & Literacy Club, the entire community ultimately was benefited. For these women carved out meaningful

**100th Year of IFCWC
Bethel AME Church
414 West Vermont St.
Indianapolis, IN.**





**Joan Baines 'turning it up!'
as Songstress Tina Turner
at 2008 N.A.C.W.C.
convention**



**I.S.F.C.W.C. Convention held in Fort Wayne, IN. at
First Wayne Street United Methodist Church
(2008)**

and productive lives for themselves, as they sought to 'climb' by participating in social and self-improvement activities while 'lifting' the community through their philanthropy and service projects. Subsequently, the club, to its own merit, for the past one hundred years has sustained its legacy by seeking to empower youth, raising funds for youth development, supporting local charities, and sponsoring or co-sponsoring cultural events which texturally and substantively enriched the bedrock of the Fort Wayne community. Members of the Ultra Art Club have been bridge builders extraordinaire.

Affecting many lives, pioneer Elma Alsup's example demonstrates a stellar, federated, woman of excellence, who sought to empower those who crossed her path. She personally started, among young women of her community, many of the civic colored women's clubs, in Fort Wayne. The focus of the clubs was to uplift themselves, their families and their community. Alsup has been unmatched in her service to young people. She mentored, counseled, befriended, and encouraged them, while striving to guard the well-being of both young and old. For over half a century, her name became indelibly linked to community service in Fort Wayne. She worked with dedication, for twenty-five years, at the Phyllis Wheatley Center / F.W.U.L., under the administrations of E. J. Unthank and Robert Wilkerson. To those she assisted and inspired, giving so selflessly of herself, she was like 'gold', a 'treasure in any market'. Her decades of community service and work, which demonstrated her humanity, commitment, leadership, volunteerism, philanthropy, faith, and love for all -----is her legacy, which remains beyond measure.

The Lillian Jones Brown Culture Club and the Junior Lillian Jones Brown Culture Club, both a part of the local tradition of colored women's clubs, along with other clubs which are no longer active, such as the Jennie Connor Club and Margaret Howell Club, arose to improve themselves and to uplift their brethren; beneficially supporting and empowering youth, while benevolently aiding the entire Fort Wayne community.

NOTES....

Ultra Art personal papers of Josephine Gaines Williams.....Holdings of the ACPL / Genealogy Center of Fort Wayne, Indiana and Ultra Art pictures & souvenir booklets of Mrs. Williams held by the African /African American Historical Society/ Museum, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

**Information gleaned from the personal papers of Josephine Gaines Williams -(2/28/1914-2/09/2009)*

For over 50 years, Josephine Williams was a member of a variety of service and social organizations. A charter member of some clubs, she played pivotal roles in many of the earliest African American women's clubs in Fort Wayne. Some of the clubs she belonged to were The Ultra Art Club, the Morning Star Temple, the Lillian Jones Brown Club, Indiana and National Federation of Colored Women's Club, Order of the Eastern Star, the Fort Wayne Charity Club, the Foster Grandparents Board and the Mental Health Volunteers of Allen County.



**2008---N.A.C.W.C.
State Convention
Gary, Indiana**

June 12, 1967

Mrs. Beauford Williams
1420 Eliza Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana

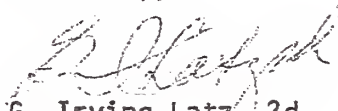
Dear Mrs. Williams:

The Fort Wayne Fine Arts Foundation and its member organizations would like to express their gratitude for your participation in the production of the 1967 Fine Arts Festival.

The success of the annual Festival in bringing free performances, exhibits, workshops and demonstrations to Fort Wayne citizens is largely due to the generosity of individuals and business firms who contribute time, labor, material and financial support to the Festival.

Thank you for your interest and for your assistance.

Sincerely,



G. Irving Latz, 2d
President

GIL:jt

We Celebrate & Honor...

Josephine Marguerite Gaines-Williams



Married to Beauford Williams, December 7, 1929
 until his death 1 day before their 65th wedding anniversary
 Children born of union, Charlotte A. Williams
 & Beauford T. Williams
 Life member of Turner Chapel A.M.E. Church, Ft. Wayne, IN
 Steward Board Emeritus - Turner Chapel A.M.E. Church
 Life Member Matchless Chapter #8 Order Eastern Star
 Life Member Morning Star Temple #346 IBPOE of W
 State Deputy IBPOE of W for 10 years
 Member Cecilia Gregg Missionary Society for many years
 Life Member Lillian Jones-Brown Culture Club

Advisor & Mentor to JR Lillian Jones-Brown Culture Club
 Member Ultra Art Club for 40 years
 Volunteer for Mental Health Association. of Allen County in
 Ft. Wayne for 20 years
 Recited Paul Lawrence Dunbar poems as well as many other
 Black poets in dialect to Fort Wayne public schools
 Accomplished violinist for many years
 Grandmother to NINE
 Great-Grandmother to TWELVE
 Great-Great Grandmother to TWO
 LOVED BY ALL WHO KNOW HER!!!

Happy 90th Birthday, Nanny ~ 28 February 2004



Josephine Williams w/ Hershel & Helen Babb '40's

Thank You

We the Junior Lillian Jones Brown Culture Club would like to thank each of you for coming out and supporting us in our first annual Friendship Social.

Officers

Theresa Moore.....President
Alice Booker.....Vice President
Dian Hollins.....Treasurer
Evelyn Hunter.....Chaplin
Jonnie Starks.....Secretary
Eunice Jones.....Program Chairman
Joan Baines.....Correspondence Secretary

FRIENDSHIP SOCIAL

FOR

MRS. HELEN BABB

&

MRS. JOSEPHINE WILLIAMS

SPONSORED BY

THE JUNIOR LILLIAN JONES BROWN
CULTURE CLUB

Links Wonderland
May 5, 1980
3:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

*Williams, who was president of Ultra Art Club from 1967-1970, was interviewed in 1993, by Paula Pitcher, a reporter for the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel. Williams had recently received an Unsung Heroines Award from the Cosmopolites Business & Professional Women's Club. Speaking warmly of her family, Williams was described, by the reporter, as humble about her achievements. Williams mentioned that she had slowed down, but "kept busy just staying up with family developments". She felt blessed to have such "a loving, caring family."*²⁴

Josephine Williams was married for 62 +years to Beauford Williams. Mother of two--Charlotte & Beauford, Jr. Grandmother of nine--- Great-grandmother of 12 & great-great grandmother of 6---Mrs. Beauford Williams, Sr. lived a life of service, encouraging all those who crossed her path.

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1929

1989

*Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary Celebration
of*

Josephine Marguerite Gaines

and

Beauford Williams

United in Holy Matrimony

December 7, 1989

Turner Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Corner of Wayne and Francis Street

Fort Wayne, Indiana

This marriage was blessed with two children

Charlotte Ann and Beauford Thomas

and nine grand-children and twelve great grand-children

Together Still

*"Let me hold your hand as we go down-hill,
We've shared our strength and we share it still.
It hasn't been easy to make the climb
But the way was eased by your hand in mine
Like the lake, our life has had ripples too,
Ill health and worries and payments due,
With-happy pauses along the way,
Graduations and raise in pay.
At the foot of the slope, we will stop and rest,
Look back if you wish, we've been truly blessed,
We've been spared the grief of being torn apart
By death or divorce or a broken heart.
The view ahead is one of the best,
Just a little bit farther and then we can rest.
We move more slowly but together still,
Let me hold your hand as we go downhill."*



Please come down-stairs and share with us in the Coffee Hour immediately following this morning's Worship Service.

Beauford, Josephine

Art Club Pictures: Holdings of the African / African American Historical Society Museum, Fort Wayne, IN.
M. Smiley / December 10, 2010

Center/Alsup

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I.L.J.B.C.

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About the author.....

Marsha Smiley honored as Zonta Woman of the Year

By Tanisha Washington
Special to Frost Illustrated

The Fort Wayne Chapter of the Zonta Club, an international women's service organization, recently honored two service agencies and a local woman with its highest award.

On June 15, the Zontas gathered at Goeglein's Fireplace Room to present Marsha Smiley with their 19th Summit Award, which is given bi-annually to a local woman who has distinguished herself through exceptional service to the community. The Zontas also presented the East Wayne Street Center's Family Literacy Program and the Tahirih Justice Center of Washington D.C. with community service awards.

The Zontas named Smiley Woman of the Year to recognize her tireless contributions to the community in serving at-risk and underprivileged youth and promoting literacy. Smiley began working with young people at the Pontiac Youth Center in 1994. She has volunteered for Project Reads (Reading Early Assistance Developing Skills), a children's literacy program for the past eight years. In addition, she has initiated reading programs in several



Photo courtesy of Ephraim Smiley Jr.

Upon receiving the Summit Award, Marsha Smiley is congratulated by her son E. Scott Smiley.

youth centers, formed black history clubs, staged two self-written historical plays which celebrated African American achievements and culture. The Indiana State Library requested a copy of one of her plays to add to its collection of works from Indiana authors.

Smiley's history of service to

the Summit City community reaches back many decades. After receiving a bachelor's of arts in history from Indiana University, she worked as a case worker for the Allen County Department of Public Welfare from 1974 to 1987. Since 1993, she has worked

(See "Zonta woman" on page 2)

Zonta woman

(Continued from page 1)

as a member of Race Unity Day's Planning Committee. The goal of these observances is to rid American society of racism and to breakdown prejudicial barriers which interfere with cultural diversity.

Smiley received various prestigious awards and honors, including the 1998 Doing Good Works Award from the United Way of Allen County and the Literacy Alliance's Year 2002 Literacy Star Award. She and her husband

Ephraim also were nominated for the 2004 David Kellam Award which the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's of the United States gives annually for youth empowerment. She cofounded Tahirh's House in 1998 as a transitional shelter for the mentally ill. From 2003 to 2004, she served with a Baha'i team as part of the Faith-Based Initiative Program to assist a young woman with two children to go from welfare to work. During that year, Smiley also met with the woman's children at their home twice a month to enhance their reading abilities. Smiley serves on boards and belongs to many civic organizations.

Lana Hill, literacy site coordinator for Project READS, stressed the importance volunteerism has on program initiatives.

"Without the volunteers we really could not have the program," Hill said.

Most of the children Smiley tutors are ages five through nine and in kindergarten through third

grade but occasionally fourth graders need her help, too. Regardless of the age group though, Hill said Smiley "has a very exhilarating way of reading the stories to the children and is also very attentive not only to their reading, but their reading styles and the areas where they need help.

"Volunteers are the pillar of the program for us because they actually tutor the students," said Hill.

In 1999, Smiley founded "Spirit Flight" youth workshops which interweave highlights of African American history with character building. Smiley continues to educate, inspire, and nurture children and adolescents at the McCormick Boys and Girls Club. Having spent more than a decade motivating children to embrace the rich legacy that is in African American history, through character-building and education, she has fulfilled her passions and met her mission.

In addition to her volunteerism, Smiley has worked diligently to educate her four sons and to instill in them her sense of importance for public service. Looking back over the years of past achievements, Smiley is pleased by the work she has accomplished, but she forward to even greater works in the future.

"I am constantly looking to uplift and empower youth and through my volunteer work, I have simply used my passions for history and literacy to do that," Smiley said.

For more information about Project READS and Marsha Smiley's volunteerism, please contact Lisa Fabian of the Allen County Education Fund at (260) 423-6447.

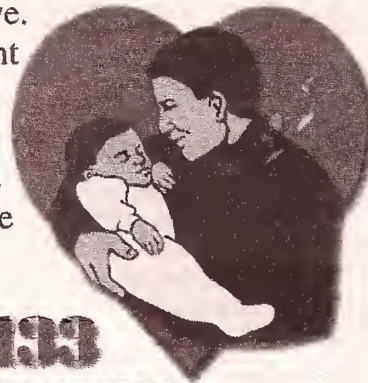
*I can do all things
through Christ which
strengthens me
Phil. 4:13*

King's Barber Shop

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If you have agency consent
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Edward N. Smith to
complete your legal work.
He's experienced, sensitive
and competitively priced.



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*We have a beautiful mother
her green lapse immense
her brown embrace eternal
her blue body everything
we know.*

poem: We Have A Beautiful Mother
- Alice Walker

May we rediscover our oneness in the unyielding, yet
often belittled, fact of the diversity of creation. Bless
those who pray to the One who is able to knead, shape,
and bake us into a wholesome and holistic bread that can
become a sacrament worthy for our children to partake.

- James Melvin Washington (1994)

P.O.E.T. Reading Club/Pontiac Youth Players
A "Spirit Flight" Production



*From Activists to
Powerbrokers:
VOICES
Inspiring Our Hearts*

A STAGED READING PLAY
BY
Martha E. Smiley



***In celebration of
Black History Month
&
Women's History Month***

***An evening
of
Drama, Poetry, & Music***

***Sponsored by
Boys & Girls Clubs of Fort Wayne
Tuesday, February 24, 2004
6:30 P.M.***

TEACHING HISTORY & LIFE LESSONS
THROUGH THE ARTS



**"Let us listen to the voices of our
fore[mothers]...
souls that wish us well our
murmuring"**

**The Boys & Girls Clubs of Fort Wayne
presents
*A Tribute to Women of African Descent
"From Activists to Powerbrokers.....
VOICES Inspiring Our Hearts"*
by Marsha E. Smiley**

WELCOME.....Marcus Hassell

**"The Seed" by Gladys Wilson.....Ky'Jaha Willis & Chris
Poem by Paul Lawrence Dunbar.....Fred Allen**

NARRATOR.....Madeline Helser

"And Ain't I a Woman?"

Sojourner Truth-Activist

Ladi Ridley

Brooke Wilson as Feminist Frances Cage

"Legacy of Excellence"

Mary McLeod Bethune-Educator/Civic Leader

Denise Porter

Emily Greigar as First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt

"The Power of Persistence"

Madame C.J. Walker—Business/Philanthropy

Simone Mudd

"My Mother's Daughter"

Ruth J. Simmons-College President/Civil Servant

Michele Michelle

"An Ever Abiding Faith"

Barbara Jordan-Law/Government/Educator

Katie Moore

"Lady Day—"God Bless the Child"

Billie Holiday- Jazz Vocalist

Tameka Williams

"The Right to Be Equal"

Cheryl Mills-Attorney

LaDonna Chambers

"The Priceless Role of Peacemaker"

U.S. Rep. E. Bernice Johnson

Nursing/Public Administration/Government

Diane Prosser

"In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens"

Alice Walker-Literature

Tanika Burt

"I Believe I Can Fly".....Tameka Williams

A "SPIRIT FLIGHT" PRODUCTION

